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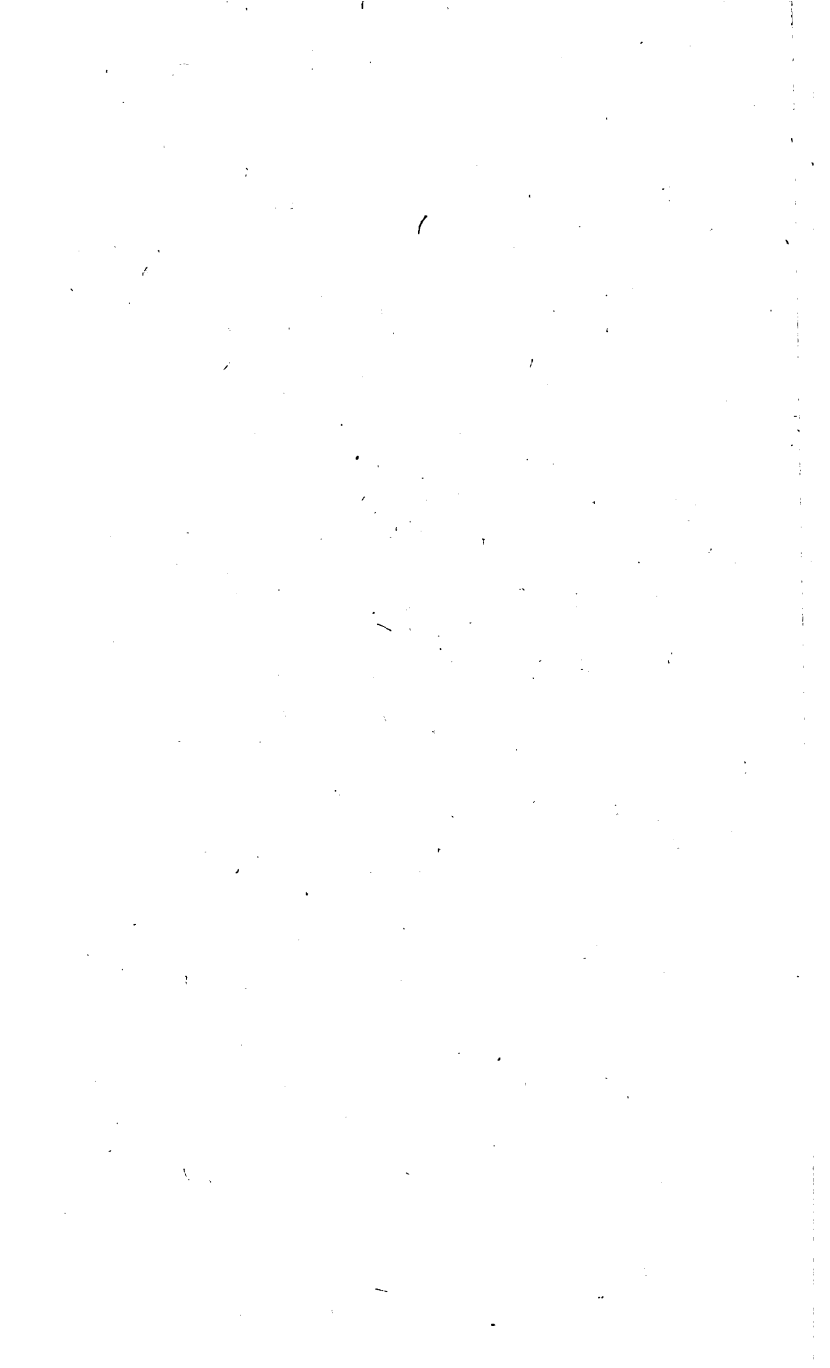
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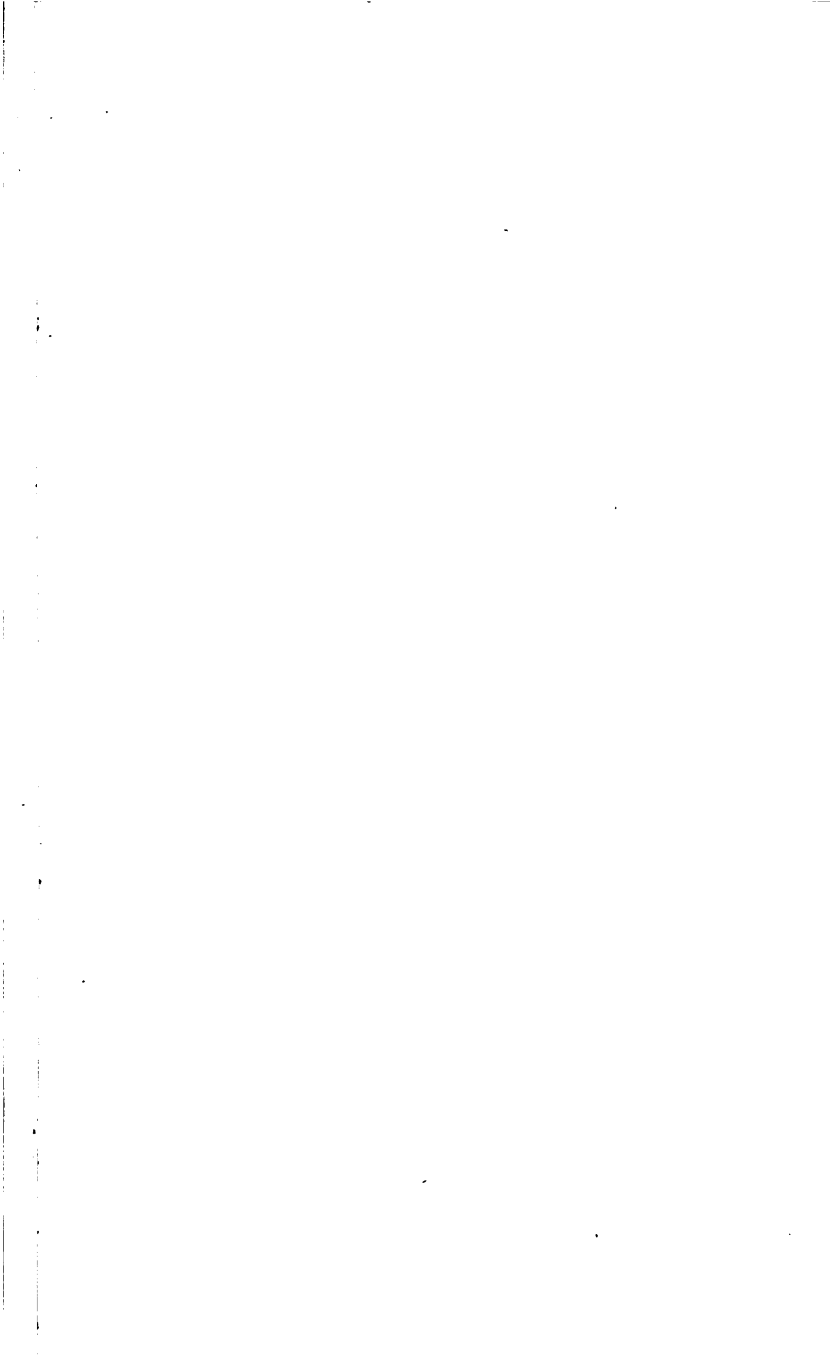
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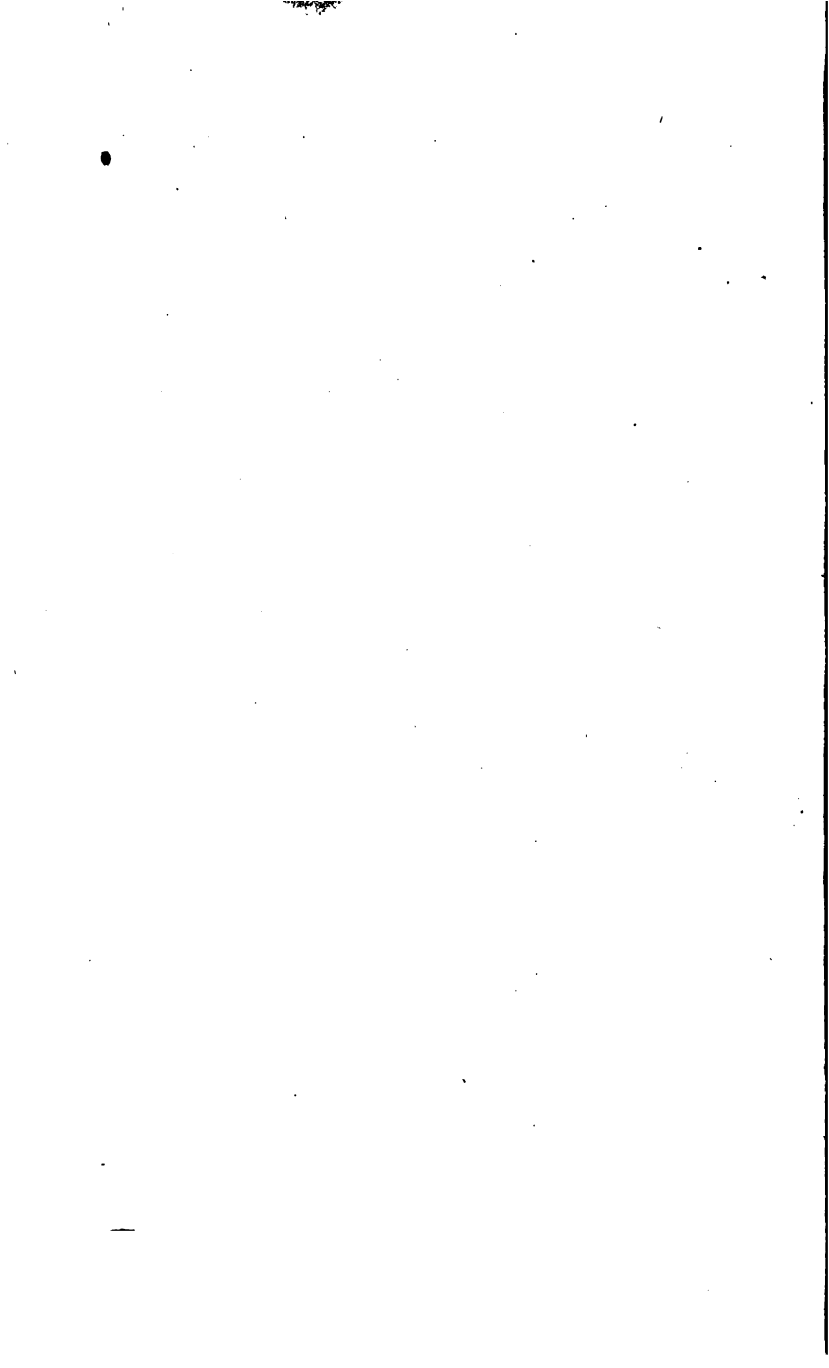
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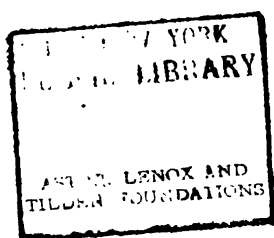
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THE
ASIATIC MEDITERRANEAN,
AND ITS AUSTRALIAN PORT:
THE
SETTLEMENT OF PORT FLINDERS,
AND THE
PROVINCE OF ALBERT,
IN THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA,
PRACTICALLY PROPOSED.

By TRELAWNY SAUNDERS,
COSMOGRAPHER; FELLOW OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE
STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WITH THREE VIEWS AND TWO MAPS.

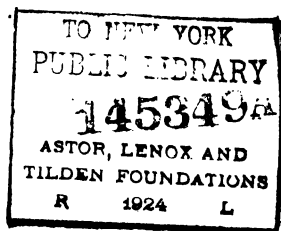
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DEDICATED

To the Memory of

SIR THOMAS STAMFORD RAFFLES, F.R.S., &c.

BY WHOSE EXERTIONS

SINGAPORE,

THE ONLY FREE CITY AND PORT

IN THE EASTERN SEAS,

WAS FOUNDED,

AND THE SOLE REFUGE IN THOSE COUNTRIES

AGAINST ALL OPPRESSORS,

THEREBY FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.

344



# CONTENTS.

---

|                                                                                                                     | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.                                                                                               |      |
| Australian Exploration, and the starting point - - -                                                                | 1    |
| CHAPTER I.                                                                                                          |      |
| The Asiatic Mediterranean and its Australian Port. Port Flinders,<br>Investigator Road - - - - -                    | 3    |
| CHAPTER II.                                                                                                         |      |
| The Albert River and the Plains of Promise - - -                                                                    | 5    |
| CHAPTER III.                                                                                                        |      |
| The Province of Albert - - - - -                                                                                    | 8    |
| CHAPTER IV.                                                                                                         |      |
| The Overlanders. Stocking the territory - - - -                                                                     | 9    |
| CHAPTER V.                                                                                                          |      |
| The respective and relative positions of Port Flinders, Singapore,<br>Chusan, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide - - - | 17   |
| CHAPTER VI.                                                                                                         |      |
| Port Flinders, its sources of Trade - - - - -                                                                       | 23   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | PAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| CHAPTER VII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| Port Flinders, the Commerce immediately adjacent thereto -                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 46   |
| CHAPTER VIII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |
| The failure of previous settlements in North Australia examined                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 58   |
| CHAPTER IX.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |
| Name, extent, and basis of settlement of the new colony -                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 61   |
| CHAPTER X.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |
| The Land Question. Survey and Sale. The System in Australia                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 64   |
| CHAPTER XI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |
| The Land Question continued. The System in the United States                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 72   |
| CHAPTER XII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| The Land Question continued. The System in South Africa -                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 73   |
| CHAPTER XIII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |
| The Land Question continued. The System in Van Diemen's Land - - - - -                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 76   |
| CHAPTER XIV.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| The Land Question continued. Van Diemen's Land. The Convict System examined - - - - -                                                                                                                                                                                       | 77   |
| CHAPTER XV.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |
| The Land Question continued. Examination of the previous Chapters. The reasonable Price - - - - -                                                                                                                                                                           | 79   |
| CHAPTER XVI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| Systematic Surveying of Public Lands. Scientific Improvements. New conical projection, applicable uniformly to the entire sphere. The geographical substituted for the statute mile in measuring allotments. Meridians for east and west boundaries of allotments - - - - - | 82   |

## CHAPTER XVII.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |   |   |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
| The Climate. The Facts and the Theory examined. Captain Stokes's evidence. Captain Flinders's evidence. Leichhardt's. Natural features. Variation of temperature. Prevalent opinions on tropical climate erroneous. Action of the Sun. Actual motion of the Earth. Results of Sun's vertical action, —under the tropics, on the equatorial regions, and on the intervening zone. The great rivers of Carpentaria | - | - | 85 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|

## CHAPTER XVIII.

|                                                  |   |   |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Fundamental Laws and Institutions. Draft of Bill | - | - | 94 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|---|----|

## CHAPTER XIX.

|                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Banking and Currency | - | - | - | - | - | - | 106 |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|

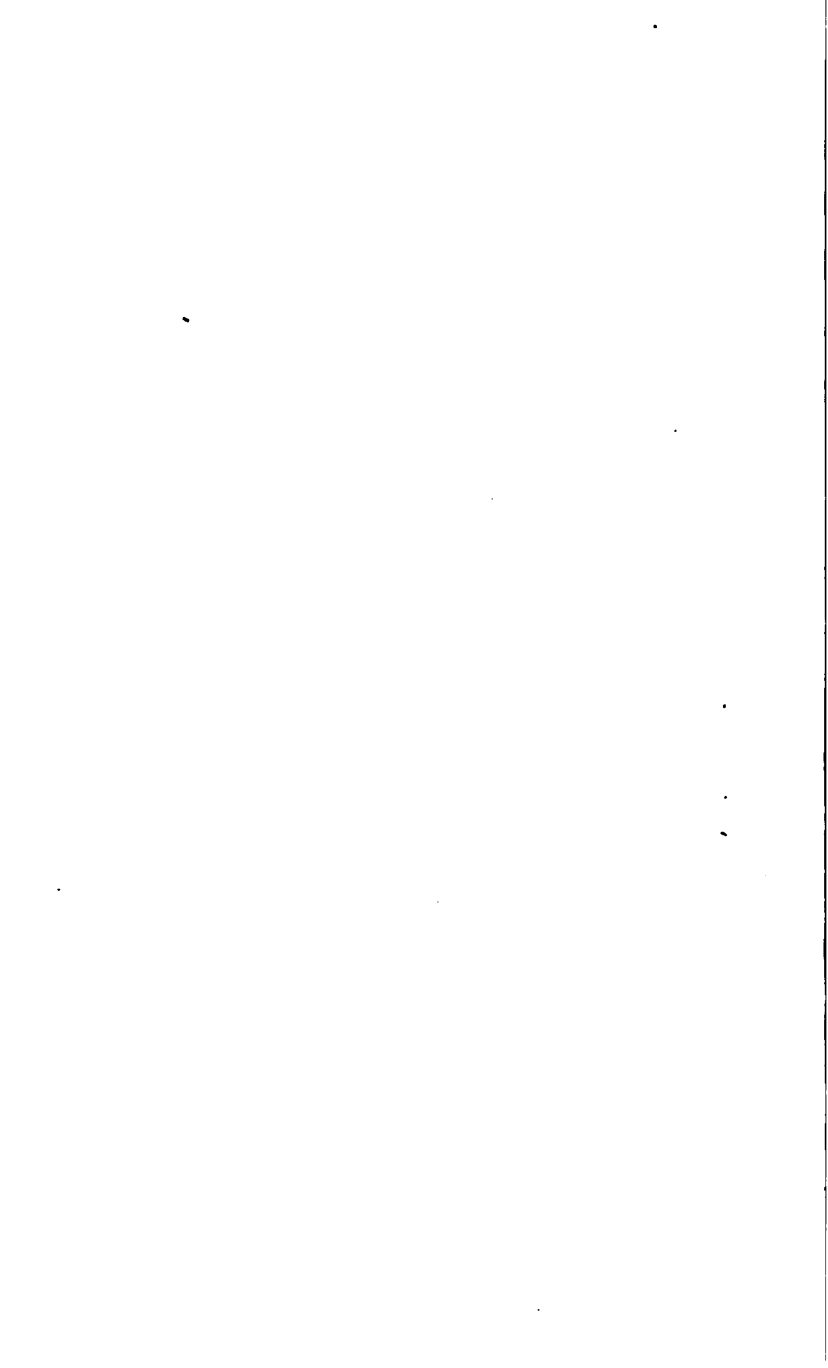
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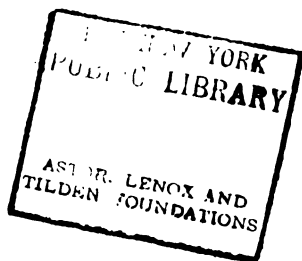
|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Conclusions | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 113 |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|

---

|                                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| List of Books, Maps, and Charts relating to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the Asiatic Mediterranean | - | - | - | - | 119 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|









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This is a historical map of the Western Hemisphere, likely from a 17th or 18th-century publication. It shows the Americas, the Atlantic Ocean, and parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key features include:

- Continents and Regions:**
  - North America:** Labeled with "NORTH AMERICA" and "CANADA". Major cities like "NEW YORK", "BOSTON", "PHILADELPHIA", and "WASHINGTON" are marked.
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- Latitude and Longitude:**
  - Latitude:** Lines are drawn at 10-degree intervals from 60°N to 60°S. Labels include "60°", "50°", "40°", "30°", "20°", "10°", "EQUATOR", "10°", "20°", "30°", "40°", "50°", "60°".
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  - Portugal**

Region of  
coastal forest  
& of Duvet

# THE SETTLEMENT OF PORT FLINDERS.

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## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

PROPOSAL to explore the north-western part of Australia from Shark's Bay, induced me to investigate the evidence relating to the northern part of that continent. The result of the inquiry in regard to the proposed expedition, is stated in this chapter; but the further examination of the subject has enabled me to digest a clear, and, as I trust, well-sustained proposition for the immediate settlement of a new but highly-favoured and not unknown region, which also appears to constitute the best starting-point for reaching the interior, and generally extending our knowledge of the country. At the same time it seems well calculated to afford a fresh stimulus for the development of the older Australian colonies, by the intercourse which, it cannot be doubted, must grow up between them and the new settlement.

The voyages and inland journeys of Flinders, King, Lort Stokes, and Leichhardt, have contributed most materially to our knowledge of the country from Western Australia, round to Moreton Bay; while Mitchell, Sturt, and Kennedy have penetrated farthest into the interior. Leichhardt commenced his attempt to cross the length of the continent more than four years since, and his fate is still a cause of much anxiety and apprehension.

Upon examining the coast line from Shark's Bay to Moreton Bay, the Gascoyne River first invites attention; and then the unknown depth of Exmouth Gulf. But their situation at the extreme western part of the continent, is a

sufficient inducement to pass them over, whether the object be to reach the interior, or only to ascertain the limits of the area draining into the western coast.\* No point of approach recommends itself northward from the Exmouth Gulf, until the Fitzroy River, at the back of Dampier's Land, is reached.

Captain Stokes says, "The river Fitzroy, although not of the magnitude that we hoped to find, was still an undoubtedly valuable acquisition to our stock of geographical knowledge; and offered a way of access into the interior, of which we availed ourselves to the extent of 90 miles, and which subsequent explorers might yet improve."

Passing northward, attention is arrested by the "vicinity of Prince Regent's River," from which Grey started on his ill-advised and hapless attempt "to pass in the direction of the coast towards the great opening behind Dampier's Land," and thence southward to Swan River; by which course it was expected that he would "cross every large river that flows from the interior." The result of this intercepting process, both in this journey, and in Grey's subsequent disastrous endeavour to examine the coast in boats, only exhibited the extraordinary powers of endurance of which man is capable, but it contributed nothing, either towards a knowledge of the interior, or of the coast itself, that has not been learned by other explorers in an ordinary way. Grey's subsequent investigations and indefatigable exertions have, however, since proved highly beneficial both to humanity and science.

Captain Stokes observes, "The rugged nature of the country in the neighbourhood of this coast, and its vast distance from the interior, from whence it is further removed than any other part of the continent, justify the expression of an opinion that this was an ill-chosen spot for the debarkation of an expedition for inland research . . . . . I shall always regret that Lieut. Grey and his companions had not the advantage of starting from the Fitzroy, or exploring yet further the unknown course of the Victoria, by which I am now convinced a most successful attempt to reach the interior might be made."

\* Shark's Bay is also directly under the tropic. See Chapter XVIII., "On the Climate."

This very decided opinion expressed by an authority so competent, carries the inquirer onwards at once to the Victoria River; for although the bold opening of Cambridge Gulf appears promising, yet examination has determined that its pretensions are altogether incomparable to those of the Victoria. An expedition for the purpose of following up either the Fitzroy or Victoria river to its sources, and thence proceeding, according to circumstances, either along the water parting with a view to the investigation of the drainage on the same side; or otherwise, taking a favourable opportunity of striking into the interior watershed, would doubtless render great service to science, and open the way to the future occupation of the fine lands that have already been tracked along the courses of these streams.

It must, however, be remembered that this country, from the north-western highlands to the coast and seaward, is exposed to hurricanes and the full force of the storms and rains of the N.W. monsoon from October to April. From April to October the S.E. trade-wind blows, but the highlands over which it has to pass in reaching this region, uplift the wind, and cause calms and variables to prevail during the season, so far as to about 200 miles from the coast.—*See Jukes on Australia.*

Having thus disposed of the north-west, a broader view, regarding Australia as a whole, and in relation to the vast interests of which it may become a centre, opens up a fine prospect, a better starting point for exploration, and a site for immediate settlement, which one can only wonder at finding still unoccupied.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### THE ASIATIC MEDITERRANEAN AND ITS AUSTRALIAN PORT.

CASTING the eye along the outline of the Australian Continent, it cannot fail to pause over that remarkable indentation, the Gulf of Carpentaria. It suggests at once the notion of a Mediterranean Sea, with all the facilities for approaching the interior of a terrestrial mass, which similar features



present in the other continents. And that idea gains strength as it leads one to trace the obvious extension of the gulf into that true Mediterranean, which, commencing or ending at the Head of Carpentaria, runs on between New Guinea and Timor, Celebes and Java, Borneo and Sumatra, between the Philippines, Cochin and China, through the Formosa Channel, between the mainland and the Japanese Islands to the sea of Okhotsk, and onwards along the Aleutian group and the Pacific Coast of British America, to Charlotte and Vancouver Islands, where this remarkable feature abruptly terminates in the finest port on the western side of the Pacific, and in British territory.

This is not merely a fanciful picture. All along, from the rich ports of China, passing the ports of Singapore, Batavia, Amboyna, Dobbo, and many others, the ship is navigated in safety amidst coasts teeming with spices, and all the wealth of the East, till she reaches the Head of Carpentaria. If she would penetrate eastward to the markets of East and South Australia, the Great Barrier reef interposes, leaving no opening but the difficult channels of Torres Straits to lead into still further dangers. If she would carry her cargo westward round the continent, then she must be exposed to a long voyage, stormy seas, and inhospitable iron-bound coasts.

But up to the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Malay penetrates in his prahu without fear, through an inland sea, in search of the trepang and turtle, and other natural products of the North Australian coast. At the head of the gulf is a fine port for vessels of all sizes in either monsoon, possessing an equal supply of wood, fish, and birds, with turtle on "Bountiful Islands," close at hand. On parts of Sweers Island, there is a great quantity of ironstone, and the cliffs on the eastern side are mixed with this and pipe-clay. Iron ore abounds along the coast.\*

As cotton grows well at Port Essington, there can be little doubt that it will thrive here. An adjacent island is thickly wooded. Great inconvenience is felt for want of a trading settlement in North Australia, where British goods could be obtained by the shippers trading in the Eastern Archipelago.† At present, Singapore is the only

\* See Chapter XX.

† See Chapter VII.

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of my eyes in the distance. The spectacles of Randolph truly catch the heart of the reader and he can give some idea of the beauty of the scene. "Plain stakes" description is almost equally picturesque and impressive. Faint and faint in great variety and abundance.



G. G. G. del.

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## CHAPTER II

## "ALBERT RIVER" AND "THE PLAINS OF ALBERTA."

Let on the shore forms the mouth of a large tidal  
discovered by Captain Stokes, and called the "Atchafalaya."  
Several other streams bespeak the general fertility of  
land.

John Stokes as a student of Mount Pleasant for a distance of thirty years in the evening. The sketches of the landscape of the south branch of the river drawn by him gave you a view of the beauty of the scene. John Stokes' description is almost equally picturesque and expressive. His old garden grew a variety of flowers and plants.



port where British goods are so obtained, and Dobbo Harbour, in the Arru Islands, is said to be the only place on the east part of the Archipelago, where British articles can be procured. The importance and magnitude of this subject must be entered into more fully hereafter.

"I should observe," adds Captain Stokes, "that in case of our being fortunate enough to find rivers or fertile country on the southern shores of the gulf, we at once saw that we might look forward to the time when Investigator Road should be the port from which all the produce of the neighbouring parts of the continent must be shipped, and when it should bear on its shores the habitations of civilized man, and the heavenward pointing spires of the christian church. This road fully deserves the name of a good port, being four miles in length by one in breadth, with a depth of from four to six fathoms: and sheltered at all points except from S. to S.S.E., in which direction the shoalness of the water prevents any sea from getting up." Flinders called it "Investigator Road," after the name of his surveying ship; but it is due to the discoverer, and in analogy with Port Phillip, to call it, now and hereafter, "PORT FLINDERS"

Leichardt says, "that in creeks in this neighbourhood shiploads of pure salt can be collected near the coast, in a very short time, requiring nothing but drying and housing until it could be removed."

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE "ALBERT RIVER" AND "THE PLAINS OF PROMISE."

AN inlet on the shore forms the mouth of a navigable tidal river, discovered by Captain Stokes, and called the "Albert;" while several other streams betoken the general fertility of the land.

Captain Stokes ascended the Albert in boats, for a distance of fifty miles from the entrance. The sketches of Hope Reach and of the south branch of the river drawn by Lieut. Gore, give some idea of the beauty of the scene. Captain Stokes' description is almost equally picturesque and impressive. Fish and game in great variety were found in abundance.



The country that stretched away from either bank was an extensive plain covered with long coarse grass, relieved along the line of the water-courses by the growth of trees and shrubs, amongst which tall palms and bamboos (important for house building, fencing, and many useful purposes), drooping gums and acacias, harmonized exquisitely with the polished mirror of the limpid stream.

"On leaving the boats and ascending the summit of the level, a view burst upon me,\* the nature of which the reader may learn from the accompanying plate. A vast boundless plain lay before us, here and there dotted over with woodland isles. The soil was a light-coloured mould of great depth, without a particle of stone, and, according to one so well qualified to judge as Sir W. Hooker, who kindly examined some that was brought to England, is of a rich quality, confirming the opinion entertained of it, which suggested for this part of the continent the name of "The Plains of Promise."

"The line of verdure still pointed out the southerly course of the river across the endless plain, and it became natural to speculate on its source or origin; whether it was the drainage of a swamp, or the outlet of some lagoon fed by the cordillera to the eastward. But to speculation alone was I reduced, it not being permitted me to clear up this point. All I could do was to give one long lingering look to the southward before I returned. In that direction, however, no curling smoke denoted the presence of the savage; all was lonely and still; and yet, even in these deserted plains, equally wanting in the redundancy of animal; as in the luxuriance of vegetable life, I could discover the rudiments of future prosperity, and ample justification of the name which I had bestowed upon them. I gazed around, despite my personal disappointment, with feelings of hopeful gratitude to Him who had spread out so fair a dwelling-place for his creatures; and could not refrain from breathing a prayer that ere long the now level horizon would be broken by a succession of tapering spires rising from the many Christian hamlets that must ultimately stud this country, and pointing through the calm depths of the intense blue and gloriously bright skies of tropical Australia, to a still calmer, and brighter, and more glorious region be-

\* Captain Stokes.

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

1880

1881

1882

1883

1884

1885

1886

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



at five a/c.

*Last View of the Plains of America, Mount Pleasant.*

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

yond, to which all our sublimest aspirations tend, and where all our holiest desires may be satisfied."

"During our visit to this part of the continent we found the climate well suited for Europeans; but what it might be in the middle of the north-west monsoon we had no opportunity of ascertaining. At its commencement, in the month of November, Flinders found the thermometer to range on board between  $81^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$ ; "but on shore," he says, "that in the course of the day it might have been about seven degrees higher; the temperature, however, being alleviated by constant breezes either from sea or land, it was seldom oppressive." In July, as I have stated, the thermometer, on one occasion, at 5 A.M., was down to  $51^{\circ}$ ; on another, at noon, up to  $87^{\circ}$ ; being, in the first instance, six degrees lower than it was on board, and in the second, seven degrees higher, which gave an excess in the shore range of thirteen degrees. Generally on the land it was below  $62^{\circ}$  before 7 A.M., and after 6 P.M. The range of the barometer in November was from 29.70 to 30.06; whilst with us, in July, its maximum height was 30.08, and minimum 30.02; the lower being in both seasons with winds from the land, coinciding with what had been observed on other parts of the continent, that winds from the sea raise the mercury, and those from the land depress it. The winds in July were fresh from S. to S.E. for about two days before and after the change in the moon. They began at midnight, increasing to almost a strong breeze between five and six in the morning, and dying away again towards noon, when a calm of five hours' duration succeeded; at other times light land and sea-breezes prevailed.

Leichhardt says, "The most interesting fact, and which had already been observed by Captain Stokes, was the moderate temperature of this part of the country." If my readers compare my observations on the weather from lat.  $15^{\circ} 55'$  at the east coast, to lat.  $17^{\circ} 39'$  on the west coast of that ; they will be struck by general complaints of "cold hts." If they compare the direction of the winds, they find that at the east coast the southerly and south-westerly winds were very cold, and that they became northerly and south-easterly at the apex, and turned still more to the eastward, at the west coast. In comparing these directions of the wind, I was led to the conclusion

that the large plains were the origin and cause of these winds. The bracing nature of the winds, and of the cold nights, had a very beneficial influence on our bodies ; we were all well."—*See Chap. XVIII., on Climate.*

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## CHAPTER III.

### "THE PROVINCE OF ALBERT."

HAVING thus introduced the pre-eminent advantages of this delightful country, for the purposes of colonization and commerce, especially in regard to the safety, extent, and important situation of its port ; its natural productions, remarkable fertility, and fine temperate climate ; the reader is now invited to examine the means of overland communication with New South Wales, with a view to the transfer of sheep and cattle from the grazing districts of that colony. Let it be borne in mind, that a road has been already found for the conveyance of stock from the grazing-districts of the interior to the "Plains of Promise ;" and it may be fairly concluded that the tea, sugar, and other commodities required for the consumption of the stock-owners and their people, will readily find its way from the new port into the interior by the same road. It may be observed that the greater safety and shortness of the voyage from the tea and sugar markets to Port Flinders, must render those commodities cheaper there, than in Sydney, or in the ports on the south coast ; a fact which will not fail to be appreciated.

When the colony of South Australia was formed, the stock-owners from New South Wales brought their flocks and herds a distance of 1000 miles, on speculation, to Adelaide. Now the Plains of Promise, on the Albert River, on the shores of Carpentaria Gulf, are distant from the Victoria River of Sir Thomas Mitchell, on the confines of New South Wales, only about 400 miles ; being actually nearer to the Victoria than Moreton Bay, which is the nearest port to it in New South Wales.

The territory proposed to be occupied embraces the whole area round the Gulf, and it appears desirable to mention at once that it is proposed to be named "The

Province of Albert." The further consideration of the name and extent of the territory is entered upon after the evidence relating to the means of stocking it, and of attracting a trade there, has been fully examined in the subsequent chapters.

Governor Grey's account of "The Overlanders" so admirably explains the process whereby new territory becomes occupied with stock, that it is quoted in the next chapter.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### THE OVERLANDERS.

"THE Overlanders are nearly all men in the prime of youth, whose occupation it is to convey large herds of stock from market to market, and from colony to colony. Urged on by the hope of profit, they have overcome difficulties of no ordinary kind, which have made the more timid and weak-hearted quail, and relinquish the enterprises in which they were engaged; whilst the resolute and undaunted have persevered, and the reward they have obtained is wealth, self-confidence in difficulties and dangers, and a fund of accurate information on many interesting points. Hence, almost every Overlander you meet is a remarkable man.

"The Overlanders are generally descended from good families, have received a liberal education (Etonians and Oxonians are to be found amongst them), and even at their first start in the colonies, were possessed of what is considered an independence. Their grandfathers and fathers have been men distinguished in the land and sea service of their country; and these worthy scions of the ancient stock, finding no outlet for their enterprise and love of adventure at home, have sought it in a distant land; amongst them, therefore, is to be found a degree of polish and frankness, rarely to be looked for in such a mode of life, and in the distant desert you unexpectedly stumble on a finished gentleman.

"And it is not to be wondered at, that the young and ardent eagerly embrace a line of life so replete with exciting



events and incidents, and which at once enriches the successful speculator, and fills with plenty and prosperity the region which he enters. The first individual who opens a market, which no other Overlander has yet visited, rides into the district, an ill-clothed way-worn traveller; the residents do not at first deign to cast a glance upon him, till presently it is noised about that an overland party has arrived, that a route from the stock districts has been formed, and that the incalculable advantage of abundance of cattle at a cheap rate has been secured; landed property instantaneously rises, perhaps to double the value it had a few hours before; numbers of persons find themselves suddenly made rich, without an exertion on their own part, and from all sides individuals flock to see their benefactor. The ill-clothed way-worn traveller now finds himself at once invested with the dignity of a conqueror. On all hands he is fêted, dinners are given to him, a piece of plate presented, and as he feels the sweets of renown, and of the wealth which he has won, he meditates fresh conquests on the trackless desert, new adventures with his tried stockmen, and further acquisitions of riches.

“Then comes a strange change over the unoccupied Overlander; he has brought with him every head of stock which he could muster, and in the course of a few days his last beast is disposed of; his establishment is broken up, he awakes some morning and finds himself a rich man, but he has no stock; he has so much money, but no cattle. He no longer follows the long array of his stately herd and bleating flocks, his loaded drays and bearded stockmen, through the free wilderness; no longer regulates and watches their perilous course through the intricate ford of a deep river, or stands upon some solitary hill to reconnoitre the trackless country, and select the line along which the motley assemblage is to pass. He is now an idle unoccupied gentleman, the inhabitant of a boarding-house, with no object in the world before him; but ere long the plans of fresh achievements and speculations are sketched out. You see a muster of bearded weather-beaten men, carrying short-handled whips. The Overlander enters the group, a short consultation takes place, and in a day or two more, himself and his followers are under weigh for some district,

where he can purchase stock cheapest, and make a good start for another market.

“The magnitude of the operations of the Overlanders would scarcely be credited; a whole fortune is risked, and in the wilderness: its safety depends upon good guidance; yet far from being intimidated by the thought, the adventurers are only stimulated to a greater degree of activity. The stock of an Overlander is the capital which he has invested in a single speculation; and to give an idea of the amount of this, I will show, at a moderate estimate, the value of a herd, the property of an Overlander who arrived in Adelaide in the month of March, 1840, from the district of Illawarra, New South Wales.

**HORNED CATTLE.**

|       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 260   | Cows, many broken in.               |
| 230   | Bullocks, 3½ years old and upwards. |
| 190   | Steers, 2½ do. do.                  |
| 39    | Do. 1½ do. do.                      |
| 70    | Heifers, 2 to 3 years old.          |
| 32    | Do. 1 to 2 do.                      |
| 9     | Bulls.                              |
| 5     | Calves.                             |
| 20    | Working Bullocks, two shafters.     |
| <hr/> |                                     |
| 855   | Total head of Horned Cattle.        |

**HORSES.**

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 22    | Mares, all in foal, 3 to 5 years old. |
| 5     | Do. 5 to 8 do.                        |
| 7     | Fillies, do. 2 to 3 do.               |
| 3     | Do. rising 3 years, not in foal.      |
| 5     | Do. 2 do.                             |
| 10    | Saddle & Draught Horses.              |
| 5     | Colts, rising 4 years old.            |
| 1     | Do. 3 do.                             |
| 1     | Do. 2 do.                             |
| 1     | Blood Stallion.                       |
| 1     | Draught entire Horse.                 |
| 1     | Entire Pony.                          |
| <hr/> |                                       |
| 62    | Total number of Horses.               |
| 900   | Fat Wethers.                          |

“Now, striking a low average, the value of this herd of cattle, horses and sheep, in South Australia, was,

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Horned Stock . . . . . | £8,550  |
| Horses . . . . .       | 3,720   |
| Wethers . . . . .      | 1,575   |
|                        | <hr/>   |
|                        | £13,845 |

But between this and an ordinary mercantile risk no parallel can be drawn. A merchant insures his cargo, so

that his total loss can but be a small portion of the whole. The Overlander cannot do this with his stock, and runs a far greater proportionate risk. It must also be borne in mind that the statement of the herd, which I have above given, does not include all that started for South Australia, but only the survivors, who, after traversing so many hundred miles, reached in safety the destined mart.

“When the Overlanders drive sheep alone, without horned stock or horses, the number of heads is much increased, as from 8,000 to 12,000 sheep are brought over at one time. They are driven in separate flocks of about 1,000 each, and these follow one another in regular succession. The value of a flock of 6,000 sheep cannot be estimated under £10,500.

“So much for the operations of single parties; but when once a road to a new market is opened, numbers follow up the tracks of the first hardy adventurer, and the operations of the whole combined are not less startling in their magnitude than are those of enterprising individuals. From New South Wales into the province of South Australia the Overlanders introduced, in 1839,—

4,200 Head of Horned Cattle,  
130 Horses,  
35,000 Sheep ;

and within the three succeeding months of 1840, upwards of—

7,000 Head of Horned Cattle,  
100 Horses,  
25,000 Sheep ;

making, in fifteen months, a total of—

11,200 Head of Horned Cattle,  
230 Horses,  
60,000 Sheep.

The value of the above stock being in the whole about—

|               |   |   |   |          |
|---------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Horned Cattle | . | . | . | £112,000 |
| Horses        | . | . | . | 13,800   |
| Sheep         | . | . | . | 105,000  |
|               |   |   |   | <hr/>    |
|               |   |   |   | £230,800 |

And this wonderful amount of stock was brought into a country which, three years before, only resounded to the war-cry of the naked savage ; and the soil of which, hardened, baked, and unstirred for centuries, nursed not within its bosom seeds from which a plenteous harvest might spring, but, as if irritated by neglect and indifference, gave forth unwillingly only acid roots and scanty bulbs.

“The first entrance of an Overlander into a district may be compared to the rising of the Nile upon the thirsty land of Egypt ; then does the country bear fruit, and the land give forth her increase—he enters the district silently, noiselessly, unexpectedly—but his influence is soon felt everywhere ; merchant vessels can now obtain cargoes of wool, and no longer sail empty away. England receives raw materials, and, in exchange, are sent out luxuries and manufactured goods. New clearings are made by the farmer, who has now abundance of manure ; the artisan plies useful trades, and ceases to labour in the place of beasts of draught or burden ; hateful scurvy, the scourge of new colonies, is expelled, not by medicine, but by fresh meat, milk, and vegetables. But the worker of all this good is unmindful of it ; he has bargained to get the highest price he can for his stock, and is already plotting new enterprises ; he sought to serve himself, not others, and has accomplished both.

“The first Overlander having entered a district, nothing can check the tide that follows on—it is in vain for him to declare (perhaps really conscientiously) that he conceives the risk of loss of stock to be so great, that none should undertake the journey ; this is only ascribed to his cupidity, and a desire to keep others out of the market ; *he* has done it, and why cannot more ? This argument is irresistible, and adventurer after adventurer marches upon his track.

“Now comes a hurrying into the new district of speculators from the old colonies : the fact of a road being found to it from the stock country is a guarantee that it will succeed, and it is in a new settlement that the largest profits are realized. These arrivals bring with them, from the older colonies, experience, capital, and extensive connexions ; fresh sources of industry and speculation are at once opened

up by them ; all town-land, and landed property to be purchased at a cheap rate, they secure ; money circulates from hand to hand, and an impetus is given, and a progress made, which must be seen to be credited.

“ The tide of emigration coming in from the older colonies is a certain sign of rapid success ; those who arrive from these places are men who have done well in the first country of their adoption ; but to this they had repaired when it was thinly inhabited, when land was of very low value, and to be procured near the capital ; there they have realised largely, but it appears to them that nearly all the good things have now been picked up ; property has attained such a value that it rises but slowly, indeed, is almost stationary in price ; and the country is so largely stocked, that they are driven to establish their sheep-stations at such a distance from the sea-coast, that the expense of the transport of their wool thither greatly detracts from its value. Under these circumstances, once again do they emigrate, to repeat in a new land the operations which have before yielded them so lucrative a return ; and strong in past experience they smile at the errors committed by the younger settlers, from which they reap many advantages.

“ But time and intellect are all worth much more in Australia than they are in England, and every one can realize upon his capital, and speculate profitably upon his intelligence, activity, and strength ; for all of these he gets paid—hence but few men are willing to follow professions. Clergymen, too, often turn farmers and speculators, even if they do not altogether throw aside their sacred character. Medical men but rarely pursue their practice, when such remunerating fields of enterprise are laid open to them ; soldiers abandon their calling ; and the government officers are all virtually farmers and stock-owners.

“ This is to be expected from the character of man. In a new colony everything increases rapidly in worth—a landed estate which can be bought in the early stages of its existence at a mere nominal price, grows yearly in value, without a penny being expended upon it ; stock increases in a geometrical ratio, at little or no cost, for there is plenty of land to pasture them upon—nothing of this kind either

does or can take place in England ; and when the settler finds how changed his prospects are, and how new means of acquiring wealth are opened to him, he too often devotes his every thought and energy to the one object ; and so far will this passion lead men, that I have known an honourable member of council, and leading magistrate in a colony, take out a retail licence, and add to his already vast wealth from the profits of a gin shop.

“ But as stock is that species of property from which the largest returns are realized, and that with the least labour, it is to this branch of industry that settlers generally direct their attention ; indeed, until plenty of stock is introduced into a new colony, its success is wavering and uncertain, and its inhabitants are generally compelled to undergo a degree of poverty and privation, which contrasts strangely with the affluence of the people occupying the more settled countries. The degree of care and attention which is bestowed upon the breeding of stock necessarily ensures both a constant supply of it, and its rapid diffusion over all accessible portions of the continent.

“ It is extremely difficult to convey to a mind, which has never contemplated the subject, an idea of the rapid advance of stock stations over the continent of Australia ; there is something about it which bears an almost fabulous character ; and the same circumstance takes place with regard to the rise in the price of town and country lands. Those who have not witnessed such things can scarcely give credit to them. In Western Australia town-land was bought for twenty-three pounds an acre in the month of December, 1839 ; and in the month of February, 1840, large importations of stock having taken place, the same land was sold for sixty pounds an acre. But in other colonies, where overland communication takes place, this would be regarded as a very small increase in price for a new colony ; there are many instances in South Australia of people realizing, in less than two years, sums of money to the amount of from ten to twelve thousand pounds, from the sale of town acres in the city of Adelaide.

“ To endeavour to give some idea of the rapid extension of stock stations over the face of the country, I must begin by premising that farming stock somewhat more than double

themselves in two years; or at the end of two years they occupy double the space of territory; at the end of four years, four times; at the end of six years, eight times; at the end of eight years, sixteen times; and thus, at the end of ten years, thirty-two times the space of country, which was originally taken up by stock, becomes occupied by civilized man.

“Exactly in the same ratio as the amount of occupied territory increases, so does the amount of wealth in the country advance, as well as the demand for labour; and the natural increase of population falling far short of this, and not supplying a sufficient number of persons to absorb the wealth which the country is capable of producing, a demand for emigration arises, and a stimulus to it is given by the ease with which wealth and comfort are acquired in the Australasian colonies.”

It may also be interesting to quote from the same authority the following estimate of the increase of stock in five years:—

## SHEEP.

| Settler commencing with 100<br>Ewes. |     | Settler commencing with 300<br>Ewes. |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Ewes . . .                           | 180 | Ewes . . .                           | 540 |
| Maiden Ewes . . .                    | 56  | Maiden Ewes . . .                    | 168 |
| Wethers . . .                        | 164 | Wethers . . .                        | 492 |
| Ewe Lambs . . .                      | 72  | Ewe Lambs . . .                      | 216 |
| Wether Lambs . . .                   | 72  | Wether Lambs . . .                   | 216 |
| Value about £800                     |     | Value £2,400                         |     |
| 544 Total.                           |     | 1632                                 |     |

## HORNED CATTLE.

| Settler commencing with 100<br>Cows—amount and value of<br>his Stock at the end of five<br>years. |  | Commencing with 200 cows<br>—amount and value, &c., at<br>the end of five years. |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 140 Cows.                                                                                         |  | 280 Cows.                                                                        |  |
| 40 3-year old Cows.                                                                               |  | 80 3-year old.                                                                   |  |
| 80 Bullocks.                                                                                      |  | 160 Bullocks.                                                                    |  |

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 40 2-year old Heifers. | 80 2-year old Heifers.  |
| 40 2-year old Steers.  | 80 2-year old Steers.   |
| 57 1-year old Heifers. | 114 1-year old Heifers. |
| 57 1-year old Steers.  | 114 1-year old Steers.  |
| 75 Heifer Calves.      | 150 Heifer Calves.      |
| 75 Steer Calves.       | 150 Steer Calves.       |
| <hr/>                  |                         |
| 604 Total.             | 1,208 Total.            |
| £6,644 Value.          | £13,288 Value.          |

## CHAPTER V.

### THE RESPECTIVE AND RELATIVE POSITIONS OF "PORT FLINDERS," SINGAPORE, CHUSAN, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, AND ADELAIDE.

THE highly favourable position of Port Flinders for commercial intercourse with the rich islands and coasts of the Asiatic Mediterranean on the one hand, and with the squatters of the interior of Australia on the other, has led to an examination of the existing traffic as a means of estimating the extent of the field open to mercantile enterprise in connexion with the new settlement.

The new port may be considered, in a general point of view, as about equidistant from Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The first-named place, Singapore, is the great commercial entrepôt of the whole of the Eastern seas. It is situated at the southern entrance of the China Sea, at a distance of 3000 miles from the wealthy coasts of the eastern extremity of this Mediterranean channel, on the Australian shores of which our new port is found. Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, on the other hand, are situated on the southern shores of the Australian continent, surrounded by the ocean, and may be regarded, under all aspects, as equidistant from the new port, with the great interior pasture lands, laying between them.

Their respective and relative positions are as follows:—Port Flinders is at the head of a great gulf, on the north coast of Australia, 300 miles wide, and penetrating about 400 miles into the interior. It provides safety for shipping in all weathers; and a remarkably temperate climate, great extent of fertile soil, and abundance of wood, water, and



food are found on its shores. It constitutes, as it has been already observed, the natural *southern* and *eastern* terminus of a great Mediterranean sea; extending between the Eastern coast of Asia and the great islands adjacent thereto, which are well known to abound with population, and the most valuable resources for commerce.

Singapore lies on a small island about *equidistant* from either extremity of this long Mediterranean channel. It owes its importance entirely to the trade, which, as an entrepôt for British commerce, it carries on with the islands and shores around it. Its own productions are comparatively insignificant.

At the *northern* extremity of the China Sea, which terminates one section of our great land-enclosed channel, are the islands of Chusan (or Chou-shan), of which it is said,—"If a foreign nation should take possession of them, the whole eastern coast of China, and its intercourse with Japan, would be at its mercy." In 1840 Chusan was occupied by British troops, who kept possession till December, 1845. Its evacuation was caused by the glaring selfishness of certain officials who were entrusted with the selection of either Chusan or Hong Kong for the site of a permanent British establishment. The speculation in town lots at Hong Kong, by those worthies, decided the question, and Chusan was abandoned, before the earnest remonstrances of the treasurer and an exposure of the facts were permitted to reach H. M. Ministers. The utter worthlessness of Hong Kong is now manifest, and it is hoped that the existing circumstances in China will lead to the reoccupation of Chusan, according to the terms of the unfulfilled treaty of Nanking.

Chusan is remarkable for its geographical position. It is at the mouth of the Yang-tze-kiang River, which is connected with the Hoangho, or Yellow River, and these two rivers form the great trunk lines of communication and traffic through the vast interior of China. It is within a day's journey of Nanking, and it is also the entrepôt of the trade between China, the splendid region of Corea, and the immense resources of Japan. It has a fine and safe harbour. Its climate "may be said to vie with the most favoured regions on the earth," so that it is the resort

of invalids. The thermometer has been observed to range from  $20^{\circ}$  in winter to  $86^{\circ}$  in summer. The population is industrious, there are no beggars, and the honesty, good conduct, and friendly disposition of the people towards the British is in evidence. Its products are abundant. Its trade is extensive and offers great facilities for enlargement. A revenue may be derived from it, sufficient to meet all the needful charges of an establishment. Hong Kong, on the other hand, is at the extremity of China, where it is the policy of the Chinese government to keep foreigners: the adjacent province is cut off from intercourse with the rest of China by lofty mountains, and it is a place of banishment for Chinese officials. It is notoriously unhealthy, being immediately under the tropic. It has no resources, and has been the cause of an enormous drain on the British exchequer, with no other benefit than the enrichment of officials. It must be abandoned sooner or later.

The respective and relative positions of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, have now to be stated with reference to the new colony.

The city of Sydney is situated in the magnificent harbour of Port Jackson, on the south-east coast of Australia. It is the capital of New South Wales. Of the land between Sydney and the Blue Mountains, it is said that one-half is absolutely barren. Its great prosperity arose from the discovery of a passage through the mountains leading to the great pastures on their western slope. Sydney was first occupied in 1788, as a convict settlement; the government, incidental to which, entailed severe grievances on the free settlers, and very much retarded the progress of the colony. Subsequently, certain crude theories were put forth, which were designed to secure the profits of labour to the great capitalist, by raising the price of colonial lands, and applying it to the importation of labourers, so as to keep down their value. Hence the minimum price of land in the three southern colonies is 20s. per acre. The result was prophetically anticipated by Governor Sir Richard Bourke, who thus wrote, "It is possible that the augmentation of the minimum price (of land from 5s. to £1 per acre), would have the injurious effect of checking the immigration of persons possessed of small capital, desirous of establishing

themselves on land of their own." "Sir Richard Bourke seems to have been thoroughly impressed with the importance of encouraging and protecting a class of agricultural yeomanry. Since his time every possible impediment has been thrown in the way of those becoming possessed of freehold farms who were not rich enough to be great flock-owners, but not willing to be mere servants." *Sidney*, p. 109, 124, &c. The province of New South Wales now contains 200,000 people. The exports of the colony in 1850 amounted to £2,899,600, and the imports to £2,078,300.

The discovery of gold has completely frustrated all the plans whereby the rewards of industry on an unlimited field were proposed to be mainly absorbed by the few, while the many were intended to be kept in that state of servitude, to rise above which they had left their native land. It might be presumptuous to anticipate the result of the gold discovery either on New South Wales and Victoria, the adjoining countries, the parent state, or the world at large. There can be no doubt that it has caused a large distribution of wealth amongst the classes most needing it. That it has greatly increased the value of the necessaries of life in the southern colonies is well known; that it may permanently interfere with those productive employments, the gains of which are generally sure, if not commonly excessive, is not probable. The gold-seeker, when he has accumulated a purse, will, in most cases, gladly invest his speedily, but dangerously, acquired capital in sheep, or cattle, or in an Australian farm, if the minimum price of land in the present Australian colonies does not drive him to British America or the United States.

That the produce of the gold-fields may deteriorate the value of the precious metals is, at the best, uncertain, and perhaps not immediately probable. But it may nevertheless suggest the importance of preparing for the abandonment of the pretended fixed price of gold in the United Kingdom; and lead economists to treat it more as an article of barter with foreigners, and to look for the only representative of value not exposed to fluctuation, nor liable to impede local circulation, by those inducements to remove it in bulk, occasionally have taken place, very much to the injury

of the public, and, in many cases, entailing ruin on individuals who would otherwise remain prosperous.

Having in view the establishment of a trading port, with a settled population in the fine agricultural and grazing country at its back, there should be no desire to find gold mines amongst its local resources. Nothing can tend more to disturb society, to break up families, to promote unhappiness, vice, and crime. While, on the other hand, steady employment in commerce, agriculture, and pastoral pursuits, under great natural advantages, and with a vast and only very partially occupied market to operate upon, must necessarily draw around common industry and virtue, those rewards which are so difficult to obtain in the dense populations of Western Europe.

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, is situate about eight miles from the mouth of the Yarra Yarra, which falls into the large inlet of Port Phillip, on the most southerly part of the Australian coast.

Flocks and herds were first introduced into the province in 1824; and Melbourne was founded in 1837.

"In the year 1852 (says a well-known colonial authority), between 70,000 and 80,000 inhabitants; 6,000,000 of fine-woolled sheep; a city furnished with all the comforts of civilized life; two thriving ports crowded with ships, steamboats, and coasters; farms, gardens, and vineyards; attested the colonizing vigour of the English race, the advantages of its soil and climate, and not least, of administrative and legislative neglect; for Port Phillip has attained all its solid prosperity without the aid of colonizing companies, or Acts of Parliament, or governors, or regiments, or any of the complicated machinery with which sham colonies are bolstered up, and real colonies so often encumbered."\*

With regard to its gold-fields, the observations made on that subject, in connexion with New South Wales, are equally applicable.

Adelaide is the capital of South Australia, and was founded in 1836. It is situated in a picturesque valley, about seven miles from a narrow and rather shallow creek, which forms its harbour. The colony was intended to ex-

\* "The Three Colonies of Australia," by Samuel Sidney, 1852.

emphify the advantages of the Wakefield land system ; but, on the contrary, it has signally illustrated its evils. Mr. Sidney's account of the colony from its commencement is both fearful and undeniable ; and there can be no doubt that the commercial progress of South Australia was mainly dependent on the discovery of her copper mines. Since the discovery of the gold-fields in New South Wales and Victoria, the judicious arrangements of the Governor of South Australia, caused large quantities of the gold found in the sister colonies to be conveyed to the bankers in Adelaide, by which operation South Australia has participated in that extraordinary but uncertain source of wealth.

Looking then at the relative positions of Port Flinders, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, it will be observed that the first is nearest by many hundreds of miles to the countries producing tea and sugar, spices, &c., and also to the great entrepôts of Eastern trade. Its importance for postal communication may be appreciated from the following fact well known to all who navigate those seas : On a mere rock called Booby Island, at the entrance of Carpentaria Gulf, a large box, over which is painted "Post Office," has been placed for the reception of letters from passing ships, which are conveyed by any vessels sailing in the required direction. Letters taken to Singapore or Batavia, can be forwarded by the Peninsular and Oriental Packet Company's mail-steamers. Communications between England and the new Colony may be thus effected at once with great facility ; while the southern colonies can only communicate with Europe and Asia at much greater disadvantage, under any circumstances.

The superiority of Port Flinders for commerce, may be inferred from its proximity to the foreign markets for the larger items of Australian imports, such as tea, sugar, rice, tobacco, coffee, &c. ; also from its neighbourhood to the large populations and abundant produce of the Eastern Islands ; from its own fertility and natural advantages ; and from its facilities of communication with the great pastoral districts of the interior, in regard to which Leichardt says, that "cattle may fatten on the road."

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## CHAPTER VI.

## PORT FLINDERS, ITS SOURCES OF TRADE.

FOR the purpose of conveying some idea of the extent of trade carried on in those seas adjacent to Port Flinders, the following statement relating to the commerce of Singapore is introduced. It will be readily perceived that the great natural advantages of Port Flinders which have been already described, taken in conjunction with the export of wool, hides, tallow, oil, and other products of its own, which its settlement must soon effect; also, with its consumption of tea, sugar, spices, coffee, rice, tobacco, pepper, nankeens, hardware, &c., which must arise whenever its fertile land becomes occupied;—added to its becoming an entrepôt for British manufactures,—must necessarily attract to the North Australian port a fair share of this enormous trade that, with all its present magnitude, must still be regarded as in its infancy.

There is an admirable article in the Penny Cyclopædia on Singapore, which gives an account of that great commercial emporium, strongly supporting the evidence already offered. Its arrangement of the subject, and the details into which it enters, are precisely adapted to the present purpose. All that part of the trade which is drawn from the eastward becomes more and more accessible to our new port, as it increases in distance from Singapore. The statistics which are contained in this article are only brought up to 1836. But that the reader may enjoy its excellence of arrangement, and also be made acquainted with the latest information, the latest commercial summary up to December 1852, will also be added from the Singapore Free Press.

The town of Singapore stands on the southern shores of the island, in  $1^{\circ} 17' 22''$  N. lat., and  $103^{\circ} 51' 45''$  E. long., on a level and low plain of inconsiderable width, fronting the harbour. It extends about two miles along the shore, but only a thousand yards inland, where it is enclosed by hills from 100 to 150 feet high. The commercial portion of the town occupies the most western extremity.

and is separated from the other parts by a salt creek, called the Singapore river, which is navigable for small craft. A good wooden bridge connects it with the eastern part, which contains the dwellings of the Europeans, the public offices, and the military cantonments. Contiguous to this portion of the town is the government-house, which is built on a hill. The most eastern part is occupied by the sultan of Johore, the Malays, and Bugis. The whole of the warehouses, and all the dwelling-houses in the principal streets in their vicinity, are built of brick and lime, and roofed with red tiles. The more distant dwelling-houses are built of wood, but roofed with tiles. It is only on the distant outskirts of the town that there are huts with thatched roofs. The Malays and Bugis live in huts. The population (16,148 individuals) consisted, in 1836, of 8233 Chinese, 3617 Malays, 2157 Chuliah and Klings, and the remainder was made up by Javanese, Bengales, Bugis, native Christians, and Europeans. Ships lie in the roads of Singapore at the distance of from one to two miles from the town, according to their draught. With the assistance of lighters, cargoes are discharged and taken in with scarcely any interruption throughout the year. The lighters convey the goods to the river of Singapore, where they discharge them at a convenient quay, and at the door of the principal warehouses. There is no want of common artisans. The Chinese follow the occupations of shoemakers, bakers, butchers, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, goldsmiths, and carpenters; they also manufacture pearl sago on an extensive scale for the European market, the material being obtained from the island of Sumatra. They also employ a great number of forges, in which native arms and domestic and agricultural implements are made. These latter articles are mostly sent to the settlements of the Chinese on the different islands of the Indian Archipelago.

If the commerce of Singapore were limited to the produce of the place, it would hardly give employment to two or three vessels. Besides the pearl sago and the iron implements, it exports only a small quantity of pepper and gambier, and perhaps at present coffee of its own growth, together with a large quantity of aggar-aggar. But Singapore has become the London of Southern Asia and the Indian Archipelago. All the nations that inhabit the countries bordering on the Indian Ocean resort to it with the produce of their agricultural and manufacturing industry, and take in exchange such goods as are not grown or produced in their own countries. All of them find there a ready market, which at the same time is well stocked with European goods. This effect has partly been produced by the wise policy of declaring the harbour of Singapore a free port, in which no export or import duties, nor any anchorage, harbour, nor lighthouse fees are levied. The effect of this policy was evident even at the beginning of the settlement. In the first year the exports and imports by native boats alone exceeded four millions of dollars, and during the first year and a half no less than 2889 vessels entered and cleared from the port, of which 383 were owned and commanded by Europeans, and 2506 by natives: their united tonnage amounted to 161,000 tons. In 1822 the tonnage amounted to

130,689 tons, and the total value of exports and imports to upwards of eight millions of dollars.

According to this statement the number of vessels which entered the port in 1836 exceeded the number in 1835 by 22, and by 9640 tons; and the number of vessels which cleared out in the first-mentioned year exceeded that of the preceding year by 16, and by 9443 tons. This statement, however, does not include the native craft, which are largely used in the intercourse with Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Rhio, Borneo, and the neighbouring islands, and which in 1836 amounted to 1,484, of 37,521 tons. If these are added, the shipping that entered the port in 1836 amounted to 203,574 tons.

The commerce of the newly-established colony increased at first with incredible rapidity. In the year 1824, only five years after its foundation, the imports amounted to 6,914,536 Spanish dollars, and the exports to 6,604,601. In the following year, however, it suffered some slight diminution, and it may be said that it has been nearly stationary since that period; for in 1835 the imports amounted only to 6,611,778 dollars, and the exports to 6,238,131. In the former account, however, the exports to, and the imports from, Malacca and Penang, probably were included, whilst they were not taken into account in 1836. In this year goods to the value of 160,970 dollars were imported from Malacca, and others amounting to 168,867 dollars exported to that settlement. The commercial intercourse with Penang was much more important; the goods imported from that settlement were to the value of 426,176 dollars; and those that were exported rose to 544,640 dollars. If these sums are added, the exports in 1835 amounted to 7,325,285 dollars, and the imports to 6,825,277; and the whole commerce exceeded that of 1824 by 631,425 dollars. From 1835 an increase both in imports and exports took place; for in the year ending with the 30th of April, 1837, the imports amounted to 8,243,629 dollars, and the exports to 7,806,965 dollars, exclusive of the trade with Malacca and Penang, so that the difference between that year and the preceding was 1,900,032 Spanish dollars.—*See Trade Report, 1853; page 33.*

The commerce of Singapore may be divided into the Eastern trade, that of the Straits, and the Western trade. The Eastern trade, or that which is carried on with the countries east and south-east of Singapore, comprehends the commerce with China, the Spanish settlement of Manilla, the independent tribes of the Indian Archipelago, the Dutch settlements on the island of Java and at Rhio, and the countries of the Peninsula beyond the Ganges which lie east of the Malay Peninsula. The most important branches of this commerce are those with China, Java, and Siam.

The commerce with China is entirely carried on in Chinese vessels. The Chinese junks come from the ports of Canton, Changlim, and Ampo, in the province of Quantong, from Amoy in the province of Fokien, and from the island of Hainan. They leave their respective ports during the north-east monsoon, about January, and return with the south-west monsoon, which blows from April to October. They perform the voyage from Canton in from 10 to 20 days, and



from Fokien in 12 or 15 days. The most valuable, but not the largest of the Chinese junks are from Amoy; the largest come from the province of Quantong, and the smallest and least valuable from Hainan. They bring annually from 2000 to 2500 emigrants to Singapore. The imports from China amounted, in the year ending the 30th of April, 1836, to 712,265 dollars; the most important articles were Spanish dollars, 138,927 in number; raw silk, 113,942 dollars; chinaware, 93,902; tea, 57,509; tobacco, 47,239; cassia, 93,092; nankeens, 25,715; and gold-thread, 11,016 dollars. Minor articles were camphor, copperware, earthenware, ironware, paints, piece-goods, salt, sugar-candy, and woollens. The imports entered under the head of sundries amounted to 152,440 dollars. The exports to China amounted in the same year to 1,079,752 dollars, and consisted chiefly of opium and such articles as had been brought to Singapore from the Indian Archipelago. Next to opium, which amounted to 252,327 dollars, the most important articles were edible birds'-nests, to the amount of 162,852; tin, 117,386; and trepang, 74,723 dollars. Rice was sent there to the amount of 59,408; pepper, 56,023; betel-nut, 44,962; and ratans, 36,019 dollars. Other articles of importance were woollens (25,064 d.), European piece-goods (20,796 d.), cotton-twist (18,100 d.), raw cotton (16,155 d.), aggar-aggar (16,100 d.), camphor barus (16,155 d.), spices (11,314 d.), tortoise-shell (12,684 d.), sandal-wood (11,143 d.), and lakka-wood (10,800 d.). Minor articles were antimony, birds' feathers, canvas, dragons'-blood, gambier, gold-dust, glassware, European gold thread, hides, garro-wood, spirits, and sundries. Spanish dollars were sent to China to the number of 21,864.

The commerce between Singapore and Manilla is carried on partly by Spanish and partly by American and English vessels. In the year ending on the 30th of April, 1836, the imports from that settlement into Singapore amounted to 166,086 dollars, of which cigars constituted more than one-half the amount, viz., 89,468 dollars. Sugar was brought to the amount of 23,190 dollars, and the other minor articles were trepang, cotton, hides, indigo, mother-of-pearl shells, oils, wines, sapan-wood (8802 d.), spirits, and sundries (8842 d.). Cowries were imported to the amount of 2252 dollars, and also 3000 dollars.

The trade with Celebes is almost exclusively in the hands of the Bugis of Waju, a country on the western side of that island, the inhabitants of which have colonized many islands of the Indian Archipelago, and carry on what may be called the foreign trade of the countries in which they have settled. They disperse the goods obtained at Singapore over most of the islands east of Celebes, as far as the coast of New Guinea, and also over that chain of islands called the Lesser Sunda Islands. [SUNDA ISLANDS.] Their country vessels, called *prahus*, arrive at Singapore during the prevalence of the eastern monsoon. The goods brought by the Bugis from Celebes in 1835 amounted to 214,703 dollars. The most important articles were tortoise-shell (61,878 d.), gold-dust (23,230 d.), mother-of-pearl shells (21,277 d.), coffee (14,098 d.), trepang (12,755 d.), birds'-nests

(10,190 d.), and rice (10,501 d.). Minor articles were birds' feathers and birds of paradise, bees'-wax, hides, oils, paddy, ratans, aggar-aggar, spices, and tobacco. The importation of sundries amounted to 23,287 dollars, and 21,650 dollars in specie were also brought to Singapore. The value of the goods exported to Celebes was 339,966 dollars, and the principal articles were derived from Europe and Hindustan, viz., opium (71,162 d.), India piece-goods (66,236 d.), European piece-goods (47,881 d.), cotton-twist (44,244 d.), and copper coin brought from England (12,076 d.). The exportation of raw silk (17,498 d.), and of gambier (13,334 d.), was also considerable. Minor articles were arms, benjamin, or benzoin, chinaware, earthenware, gold thread, ivory, iron and steel (7315 d.), ironware and cutlery (5510 d.), nankeens, stick-lac, tobacco (7569 d.), and woollens (7547 d.). Besides, there went 8792 dollars in specie, and 4000 Java rupees.

The commerce between Singapore and the northern coast of Borneo is almost exclusively carried on by native vessels, many of which are of great size; some of them are managed by Bugis. The articles imported from that island in 1835 amounted to 268,074 dollars. The most important article was gold-dust, to the value of 128,748 dollars. Other articles of importance were edible birds'-nests (30,355 d.), ratans (28,776 d.), antimony-ore (24,872 d.), pepper (17,847 d.), and camphor barus (10,478 d.). Minor articles were sago (9102 d.), tortoise-shell (8624 d.), bees'-wax (8360 d.), trepang (5067 d.), ebony, hides, rice, sugar, tobacco, garro-wood (5957 d.), and lakka-wood (4472 d.). The sundries amounted to 7137 dollars, and the dollars in specie to 5290. The goods exported to Borneo were to the value of 231,342 dollars. The largest articles were India piece-goods (110,934 d.), opium (73,490 d.), nankeens (17,311 d.), Malay piece-goods (17,024 d.), and European piece-goods (9150 d.). There were also arms (5507 d.), iron and steel (6775 d.), ironware and cutlery (4449 d.), raw silk (5155 d.), china-ware (3138 d.), gambier (3792 d.), cotton-twist (2627 d.), gunpowder (2001 d.), and China sundries (2309 d.). Minor articles were trepang, benjamin, earthenware, ivory, rice, salt, saltpetre, stick-lac, tea, tobacco, woollens, Java and Eastern sundries. To these were added 9389 dollars in specie, Java rupees to the amount of 4840 dollars, and copper coin to the amount of 100 dollars.

An active commerce is carried on between Singapore and the rival settlement of the Dutch at Rhio. [RHIO.] The imports into Singapore from that place amounted, in 1835, to 111,395 dollars, of which the pepper alone amounted to 82,483 dollars, and the rice to 12,349. Minor articles were bees'-wax, cotton, gambier, hides, sugar, tin (2700 d.), and Java sundries; there were also 7933 dollars in specie imported. The exports to Rhio amounted to 167,461 dollars, and consisted especially of dollars in specie (84,882), European piece-goods (25,938 d.), India piece-goods (16,940 d.), rice (12,911 d.), and opium (5252 d.). Minor articles were anchors and grapnels, arms, chinaware, ebony, iron and steel, lead, oils, paints, ratans, raw silk, sago, salt, spelter, tea, lakka-wood, and sundries, with Java rupees amounting to 400 dollars.

The direct commerce between Singapore and Java is limited to the three ports of Batavia, Samarang, and Surabaya, but European and India goods may be shipped from these places to any other Dutch settlement on the island of Java, or on the other islands of the Archipelago, the Moluccas excepted. The exports of Java to Singapore, in 1835, amounted to 876,321 dollars. The most considerable articles were—tin (155,527 d.), European piece-goods (142,317 d.), birds'-nests (101,949 d.), and rice (86,479 d.). Next to these were tobacco (44,139 d.), spices (41,845 d.), ratans (34,589 d.), spirits, especially Hollands (26,938 d.), Java sundries (26,145 d.), pepper (18,176 d.), sandal-wood (18,490 d.), sugar (17,043 d.), gold-dust (14,523 d.), cotton (10,751 d.), and tortoise-shell (10,059 d.). The importations were—woollens (9394 dollars), European sundries (8088 d.), arrack (7856 d.), hides (7519 d.), glassware (6275 d.), mother-of-pearl shells (5308 d.), and cotton-twist (4223 d.). Minor articles were camphor, camphor barus, coffee, copper-ware, copper sheathing, ebony, ivory, indigo, oils, paints, provisions, spelter, stick-lac, sugar-candy, tea, wine, garro-wood, and Eastern sundries. There were also brought to Singapore 48,374 dollars in specie, Java rupees to the amount of 4709 dollars, doubloons (980 dollars), and cowries (150 dollars). The exports from Singapore to the ports of Java were of the value of 568,470 dollars. The most valuable articles were India piece-goods (135,900 d.), opium (118,495 d.), and China sundries (70,790 d.). Next to these were raw silk (40,135 d.), cigars (27,112 d.), china-ware (22,336 d.), gunnies (15,252 d.), tea (14,310 d.), wheat (11,749 d.), and nankeens (10,944 d.); European sundries (9231 d.), China piece-goods (7617 d.), India sundries (7308 d.), copper (6433 d.), pepper (6014 d.), iron and steel (5537 d.), Straits sundries (4935 d.), tobacco (4829 d.), saltpetre (4449 d.), tin (4000 d.), and cassia (3340 d.). Minor articles were arms, benjamin, bees'-wax, canvas, cordage, dragons'-blood, earthenware, glue, glassware, gunpowder, ivory, lead, oils, provisions, European piece-goods, Malay piece-goods, sago, stick-lac (3758 d.), woollens, and American sundries (2052 d.). There are still to be added 7024 dollars in specie, and Java rupees to the amount of 2000 dollars.

The island of Bally, whose surface does not much exceed 2000 square miles, sent to Singapore goods to the amount of 59,724 dollars, of which the rice alone fetched 37,274 dollars; the tobacco 8288 d., the tortoise-shell 4021 d., and the edible birds'-nests 2755 d. Minor articles were trepang, bees'-wax, coffee, hides, sandal-wood, and Eastern sundries (1230 d.); also 4270 dollars in specie. The goods exported from Singapore to Bally amounted to 65,073 dollars, and consisted especially of opium (24,264 d.), copper coin (13,339 d.), India piece-goods (10,119 d.), and European piece-goods (4583 d.), with several minor articles, as arms, chinaware, earthenware, gold thread, ivory, ironware, China piece-goods, raw silk, woollens, and China sundries, with 200 dollars in specie.

The commerce between Singapore and the several islands which lie in the sea between the settlement and Java, including Banca, is

also considerable. The goods brought from them amounted to 133,536 dollars. The larger articles were tin (47,461 d.), trepang (10,662 d.), India sundries (7942 d.), Eastern sundries (5622 d.), pepper (5689 d.), aggar-aggar (4869 d.), and tortoise-shell (4882 d.). Minor articles were bees'-wax, birds'-nests, chinaware, coffee, ebony, ghee, gambier, gold-dust, grain, oils, paddy (3612 d.), ratans, rice, sago, tobacco, wheat, garro-wood, and sapan-wood. There were also 12,296 dollars in specie sent to Singapore. The exports from our settlements amounted to 101,180 dollars, and consisted principally of opium (18,528 d.), India piece-goods (12,450 d.), rice (11,902 d.), raw silk (6858 d.), European piece-goods (5829 d.), and Malay piece-goods (5047 d.). Minor articles were anchors, arms, cotton-twist, earthenware, gambier, gold thread, gunpowder, iron and steel, ironware, nankeens, oils, sago, stick-lac, sugar, tea, tobacco (2500 d.), wheat, garro-wood, spirits, and sundries. Besides, 17,110 dollars in specie and 300 dollars in copper coin were exported.

The commerce between Singapore and Siam is mostly carried on by the Chinese who are settled in that country, and in junks built at Bangkok and other places. The imports from Siam amounted, in the year terminating with the 30th of April, 1836, to 282,019 dollars. The principal articles were sugar (114,453 d.), rice (43,330 d.), stick-lac (18,264 d.), iron-ware (12,379 d.), sapan-wood (11,674 d.), oils (8485 d.), salt (7959 d.), and Eastern sundries (6483 d.). Minor articles were china-ware (2147 d.), hides, ivory, paddy, India piece-goods, raw silk, sugar-candy (2250 d.), tea, spirits, and China sundries. The imported silver consisted of 12,120 dollars, and ticals to the amount of 35,913 dollars. The goods imported into Siam were of the value of 180,604 dollars. The principal articles were European piece-goods (58,155 d.), India piece-goods (26,845 d.), cotton-twist (19,913 d.), opium (18,925 d.), ratans (9533 d.), ebony (9200 d.), bees'-wax (8475 d.), woollens (5085 d.), gambier (4708 d.), and iron and steel (4560 d.). Minor articles were anchors, arms, betel-nut, earthenware, lead, lakka-wood, and European, India, China, and Eastern sundries. Only 400 dollars, and cowries to the amount of 100 dollars, were sent to Siam.

The commerce with Cochin China is much less considerable. It is likewise carried on by the Chinese settled at Kangkao and Saigun in Camboja, and at Quinhon, Faifo, and Hué in Cochin China. In 1835 the imports from these places amounted to 62,319 dollars, and consisted chiefly of sugar (27,055 d.), rice (10,356 d.), copper (9300 d.), and salt (4388 d.), with some ebony, indigo (2970 d.), iron, oils, raw silk, tea, and Eastern sundries. The exports amounted to 91,073 dollars, and the principal articles were woollens (28,534 d.), and opium (26,019 d.). The other articles, as arms, canvas, copper sheathing, gambier (4708 d.), iron, iron-ware (2485 d.), lead, piece-goods, ratans, saltpetre, spelter, tea, tobacco, sapan-wood, European sundries (3267 d.), and China and Eastern sundries, amounted in general to small sums; but 9500 dollars in specie were exported.

The commerce of the Straits is carried on with the Malay Peninsula

and with the island of Sumatra. The harbours on the eastern side of the peninsula, which trade with Singapore, are Pahang, Tringanu, and Calantan, and this trade is rather active. The trade with the western coast of the peninsula is not important, and is almost entirely limited to the harbour of Salangore. In 1835 the imports from these places to Singapore were 319,134 dollars. The most valuable articles were gold-dust (145,040 d.), and tin (107,670 d.). Pepper amounted to 11,273 dollars, and sugar to 4210 dollars. The other articles were trepang, bees'-wax, birds'-nests, coffee, ebony, ghee, hides, ivory, iron-ware, ratans (2216 d.), raw silk, rice, stick-lac, tortoise-shell, garro-wood, lakka-wood, and several other articles; 31,313 dollars were also imported. The exports in 1835 amounted to 316,370 dollars. The principal article was opium, to the amount of 169,348 dollars, and next to it followed cotton-twist (40,867 d.), tobacco (30,034 d.), Malay piece-goods (21,538 d.), European piece-goods (14,994 d.), and India piece-goods (9474 d.). Minor articles were arms, bees'-wax, cotton, earthenware, gambier, iron and steel (3431 d.), iron-ware and cutlery, raw silk, salt, and several sundries. There were also 14,408 dollars sent from Singapore to these ports.

The commerce between Singapore and the island of Sumatra is almost entirely limited to the ports along the eastern coast of the island; there is hardly any commercial intercourse with the Dutch settlements of Bencoolen, Padang, and Trappanuli, which are on the western coast. The commerce of the eastern coast is divided between Singapore and Penang. The ports south of the free port of Batu Bara send their goods to Singapore, whilst those which are farther north visit Penang. The harbours connected with the first-named settlement are Campar, Siack, Indragiri, Iambie, Assahan, and Batu Bara. The goods imported from these places amounted to the sum of 130,921 dollars. The principal articles were coffee (44,842 d.), betel-nut (24,946 d.), cotton (12,134 d.), sago (10,972 d.), ratans (8261 d.), gold-dust (5936 d.), and benjamin (4652 d.). Minor articles were trepang, bees'-wax (3712 d.), dragons'-blood, gambier, hides, ivory, iron, iron-ware, mother-of-pearl shells, paddy, pepper, rice (3682 d.), spices, tortoise-shell, lakka-wood, and several sundries. There were also sent to Singapore 1250 dollars, and Java rupees to the amount of 300 dollars. The goods exported to these places amounted to the value of 165,601 dollars. The principal articles were India piece-goods (37,774 d.), European piece-goods (16,443 d.), raw silk (12,680 d.), opium (11,767 d.), Malay piece-goods (10,837 d.), China sundries (8995 d.), iron (6390 d.), and salt (5915 d.). Minor articles were arms (2475 d.), brass-ware, china-ware (3196 d.), copper sheathing, cotton-twist, earthenware, gold thread, gunpowder, iron-ware, nankeens, oils, stick-lac, tea, tobacco, wheat, woollens, and several sundries. There were also sent to Sumatra 26,906 dollars, and Java rupees to the amount of 1800 dollars.

The western trade of Singapore comprehends that with Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, the island of Ceylon, and Arabia, with the Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, and Australia, and with Europe and America. In the commerce which is carried on between Singapore and Calcutta

larger capitals are employed than in that with China or Great Britain. The imports from Calcutta amounted, in 1835, to 1,191,390 dollars. The principal article was opium, of which 1640 chests, of the value of 957,855 dollars, were imported. Next to it were India piece-goods, which amounted to 135,679 dollars; gunnies (24,745 d.), cotton (21,060 d.), rice (14,042 d.), wheat (13,978 d.), India sundries (8024 d.), and saltpetre (7451 d.). The other articles, as brass-ware, canvas, copper-ware, cordage, copper sheathing, ebony, ghee, hides, mother-of-pearl shells, tobacco, and European sundries, amounted only to small sums. The exports from Singapore to Calcutta were to the value of 876,851 dollars. The most valuable article was gold-dust, which amounted to 473,565 dollars. Tin was sent to the amount of 69,045 dollars, pepper 44,839 d., cigars 29,550 d., European piece-goods 20,669 d., sapan-wood 18,829 d., spirits 17,992 d., ratans 13,465 d., gambier 10,230 d., Java sundries 8402 d., spices 6333 d., Eastern sundries 5721 d. canvas 5931 d., cotton-twist 5619 d., European sundries 4712 d., and tea 4510 d. Minor articles were anchors and grapnels (2014 d.), arms, benjamin, bees'-wax, betel-nut (3589 d.), cassia (3951 d.), copper, cordage, glass-ware, iron and steel, sago (3142 d.), sugar-candy, tobacco, wine, sandal-wood, woollens, and India, China, and American sundries (3916 d.). From Singapore there were sent to Calcutta 70,189 dollars, sicca rupees to the amount of 5092 dollars, Java rupees 1943 dollars, sycee silver 650 dollars, ticals 25,004 dollars, sovereigns 475 dollars, gold mohurs 93 dollars, and cowries 2989 dollars.

The commerce with Madras is much less important. The imports from that place to Singapore amounted only to 151,133 dollars. The largest article was India piece-goods (132,679 d.), and all the others, except ebony (6822 d.), amounted to small sums, and were trepang, earthenware, ghee (2993 d.), mother-of-pearl shells, European piece-goods (2880 d.), rice, wine, spirits, and a few sundries. The exports to Madras amounted to 138,365 dollars, and consisted principally in money, viz. 99,758 dollars in specie, ticals to the amount of 17,000 dollars, sicca rupees 311 dollars, and Java rupees 125 dollars. Cigars, amounting to 5187 dollars, were the most important article. Other articles were benjamin, chinaware, cordage, earthenware, gold-dust, glassware, iron and steel, ironware (2984 d.), European piece-goods, ratans, sago, spices, sugar-candy, woollens (2168 d.), spirits, and some sundries.

The commerce with Bombay is more important. The imports from that place amounted to 156,904 dollars. Opium was to the amount of 117,195 dollars, and India piece-goods 19,578 dollars. The other articles were of little value, and consisted of brass-ware, cotton (2308 d.), grain, saltpetre, tortoiseshell, woollens, and a few sundries; there were also imported 13,000 dollars. The exports to Bombay amounted to 196,757 dollars. The largest articles were gold-dust (38,683 d.), tin (31,050 d.), sugar (30,489 d.), spices (17,051 d.), piece-goods (11,202 d.), ratans (7598 d.), and cigars (5441 d.). Minor articles were benjamin, betel-nut, cassia (2962 d.), gambier, ivory, oils, pepper, raw silks, sago, garro-wood (3360 d.),

sapan-wood, spirits, and several sundries. Bombay received also from Singapore 30,437 dollars, ticals to the amount of 5896 dollars. Bombay rupees 371 dollars, gold coins 92 dollars, and doubloons 62 dollars.

The exports from Singapore to Ceylon amounted only to 3849 dollars, and consisted of chinaware (1097 d.), ratans, cigars, sugar (1358 d.), and a few sundries. But Ceylon sent to Singapore goods to the amount of 30,876 dollars, of which ebony alone was of the value of 19,872 dollars. The other articles, except cordage (4669 d.), were small, and consisted of trepang, birds' feathers, canvas, ghee, hides, India piece-goods, wheat, spirits, and some sundries.

The imports from Arabia to Singapore amounted only to 6395 dollars, and consisted of India sundries (4240 d.), and small quantities of gold thread, tortoise-shell, oils, and salt. But Singapore exported to Arabia, probably on account of the pilgrims who go from the Malay Peninsula and the Indian Archipelago to Mecca, the value of 70,153 dollars, of which 41,000 dollars were in specie. The largest articles of goods were benjamin (8708 d.), tin (6779 d.), sugar (5885 d.), and garro-wood (4710 d.). Minor articles were gold-dust (607 d.), pepper, India piece-goods, rice, sago, spices, sugar-candy, sapan-wood, and a few sundries.

The imports into Singapore from the Cape, Mauritius, and Australia amounted only to 4860 dollars, of which 2900 were in specie, to which arms and ebony in small quantities were added. But Singapore exported to these places goods to the amount of 88,674 dollars. The most important articles were tin (12,570 d.), cigars (11,272 d.), wheat (11,017 d.), Eastern sundries (8739 d.), sugar (6425 d.), and coffee (5886 d.). The other articles were of less importance, and consisted of antimony, bees'-wax, canvas, cassia, cordage (2608 d.), grain, gambier, gold-dust, gunnies, opium (2400 d.), pepper, paddy, provisions (2302 d.), ratans, rice (2633 d.), sago, sugar-candy, tea (2360 d.), tobacco, wines, spirits, and European sundries (3216 d.).

The United States of America carry on an active commerce with Singapore, but as most of their goods are not adapted for the market of Southern Asia, they generally pay for the goods that they buy with ready money. They imported 87,800 Spanish dollars, and also manufactured goods (14,548 d.), provisions (9853 d.), and American sundries (9122 d.). Minor articles were canvas, cordage, gunpowder, hides, cigars, and tobacco (1556 d.). The whole importation amounted to 125,897 dollars, whilst the articles exported were of the value of 177,526 dollars. The most important articles among the exports were tin (43,751 d.), sugar (38,184 d.), coffee (34,279 d.), pepper (19,793 d.), tortoise-shell (6784 d.), rice (6258 d.), and gunnies (5760 d.). Minor articles were antimony, betel-nut, canvas, cassia (3956 d.), cordage, dragons'-blood, gambier, hides, oils, opium (2660 d.), India piece-goods, ratans (2117 d.), sago, cigars, spices (2400 d.), tea, and several sundries.

As to the harbours of continental Europe, that of Hamburg had the greatest share in the trade. But the imports from these places

amounted only to 65,657 dollars, and the largest articles were spirits (12,876 d.), piece-goods (12,700 d.), wine (10,578 d.), and European sundries (16,584 d.). Minor articles were arms, canvas (3000 d.), cordage (2,300 d.), cotton-twist (2340 d.), glassware, gold thread, iron (2161 d.), ironware, lead, oils, paints, provisions, salt, and woollens. The goods exported from Singapore to these parts amounted to 115,303 dollars. The largest articles were coffee (42,649 d.), tin (23,319 d.), sugar (15,942 d.), pepper (13,772 d.), European sundries (5329 d.), and cassia (3355 d.). Minor articles of export were bees'-wax, cordage, gold-dust, hides, rice, ratans, sago (2084 d.), cigars (2386 d.), tortoise-shell, sapan-wood, arrack, and some sundries.

The commerce of Singapore with Great Britain is nearly equal to that with Calcutta, and more active than that with China. Great Britain imported into the port of Singapore in the year ending with the 30th of April, 1836, goods to the amount of 1,150,808 dollars. The most important article consisted of several kinds of piece-goods, to the amount of 675,776 dollars. Other articles of importance were cotton-twist (58,994 d.), European sundries (56,772 d.), iron (49,409 d.), woollens (48,976 d.), arms (45,778 d.), earthenware (31,560 d.), glassware (23,480 d.), gunpowder (20,793 d.), copper sheathing and nails (16,728 d.), ironware and cutlery (15,486 d.), anchors and grappels (14,383 d.), and wines (13,445 d.). The importations were—beer (8281 d.), canvas (5188 d.), cordage (6684 d.), opium (2000 d.), paints (3077 d.), provisions (4220 d.), spelter (3296 d.), and spirits (4724 d.). Minor articles were brassware, gold-thread, lead, and tea. Great Britain sent also to Singapore 17,000 Spanish dollars, and copper coin to the amount of 25,072 dollars. The goods shipped at Singapore for Great Britain amounted to the value of 890,017 dollars. The most important articles were tortoise-shell (125,101 d.), tin (101,204 d.), pepper (91,289 d.), raw silk (70,675 d.), sugar (62,406 d.), Eastern sundries (59,586 d.), coffee (53,644 d.), tea (44,376 d.), sago (35,891 d.), spices (34,939 d.), mother-of-pearl shells (27,570 d.), China sundries (25,544 d.), bees'-wax (22,656 d.), cassia (22,298 d.), antimony (18,704 d.), gambier (16,339 d.), hides (13,950 d.), benjamin (8708 d.), Java sundries (7982 d.), ratans (6988 d.), Straits sundries (5943 d.), and ivory (5053 d.). Minor articles were birds' feathers and birds of paradise, camphor, cordage (2524 d.), coloured cotton-twist (2541 d.), dragons'-blood, ebony, gold-dust (4355 d.), nankeens (3440 d.), oils, China piece-goods, rice, cigars, wines, sapan-wood (4262 d.), and India sundries (3106 d.). There were also sent to Great Britain 95 sovereigns, and cowries to the value of 1086 dollars.

## "THE OVERLAND FREE PRESS" TRADE REPORT.

*Singapore, Monday, 3rd January, 1853.*

At the commencement of the year, we are glad to have it in our power to record that the commercial prosperity of Singapore appears to be undiminished; in fact, if we may



judge from official statistics, it is steadily on the increase. These inform us that the trade of 1852, as contrasted with that of 1851, exhibits the following results:—

| IMPORTS.                  |   |            | EXPORTS.                   |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|----------------------------|---|------------|
|                           |   | Dollars.   |                            |   | Dollars.   |
| 1851                      | . | 11,161,970 | 1851                       | . | 10,575,897 |
| 1852                      | . | 15,067,220 | 1852                       | . | 12,773,698 |
| Increase 1852             |   | 3,905,250  | Increase 1852              |   | 2,197,801  |
| Square-rigged vessels in- |   |            | Square-rigged vessels out- |   |            |
|                           |   | wards.     |                            |   | wards.     |
| 1851                      | . | 623        | 1851                       | . | 624        |
| 1852                      | . | 792        | 1852                       | . | 823        |
| Increase 1852             |   | 169        | Increase 1852              |   | 199        |
| Native boats inwards.     |   |            | Native boats outwards.     |   |            |
| 1851                      | . | 2,054      | 1851                       | . | 1,987      |
| 1852                      | . | 2,336      | 1852                       | . | 2,448      |
| Increase 1852             |   | 282        | Increase 1852              |   | 461        |

### SINGAPORE STATEMENT OF TRADE, DECEMBER, 1852.

[*Compiled from Official Documents.*]

In this port there are no duties on Imports and Exports, and vessels of every nation are free of all charges, except 3 cents per ton levied under Act VI. of 1852.

*Accounts are kept in Spanish Dollars, divided into Cents.\* The usual credit on sales is as follows:—Europe Goods, 3 Months. Indian and China Do. 2 Months. Opium and Produce are generally bought for Cash.*

*The common weight is the picul of 133½ lbs. Avoirdupoise, divided into 100 Catties. Rice is sold by the Coyan*

\* One dollar is equal to 100 cents, or 4s. 2d. The sterling value varies. See Exchange, page 42.

of 40 piculs. Salt by the same measure, but weighs about 52 piculs. Java Tobacco by the Corgé of 40 baskets. Bengal Rice, Wheat and Grain by the Bag, containing 2 Bengal Maunds. Indian Piece Goods by the Corgé of 20 Pieces. Gold and Silver Thread by the Catty of 36 dollars weight. Gold Dust by the Bunkal, which weighs 2 dollars, equal to 832 grains Troy.

|                                                   | Imports from Great Britain. |             | Imports from Continent of Europe. |             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
|                                                   | 1851                        | 1852        | 1851                              | 1852        |
|                                                   | Quantities.                 | Quantities. | Quantities.                       | Quantities. |
| Grey Shirtings . Pieces.                          | 155,625                     | 326,689     | ..                                | ..          |
| White Shirtings . ,,                              | 135,917                     | 180,373     | ..                                | ..          |
| Domestics . . ,,                                  | 11,013                      | 62,258      | ..                                | ..          |
| Madapollams . . ,,                                | 8,242                       | 106,280     | ..                                | 80          |
| Jaconets, Muslins }<br>and Cambrics. } ,,         | 42,246                      | 140,319     | 1,582                             | 482         |
| Turkey-red Cloths ,,                              | 23,915                      | 41,856      | ..                                | 851         |
| Chintz and Prints ,,                              | 51,949                      | 45,668      | 3,208                             | 5,083       |
| Handkerchiefs . Dozens.                           | 26,423                      | 65,973      | 5,808                             | 11,326      |
| Slendong . . . Corges.                            | 4,119                       | 9,038       | 87                                | 25          |
| Sarongs and Kains ,,                              | 4,202                       | 12,959      | 2,169                             | 8,476       |
| Twist, Grey . . Piculs.                           | 3,750                       | 7,498       | ..                                | ..          |
| ,, Coloured . . ,,                                | 1,678½                      | 1,795       | 130                               | 763         |
| Spanish Stripes . Pieces                          | 360                         | 450         | 1,192                             | 1,096       |
| Camlets . . . ,,                                  | 4,197                       | 5,627       | 460                               | ..          |
| Long Ells . . . ,,                                | 890                         | 1,860       | ..                                | ..          |
| Bombazets . . . ,,                                | 3,089                       | 1,748       | ..                                | ..          |
| Dyed Cloths . . ,,                                | 10,679                      | 28,877      | 50                                | ..          |
| Beer . . . . Hhds.                                | 486                         | 265         | ..                                | ..          |
| ,, Bottled . . Dozens                             | 13,106                      | 12,314      | 120                               | 100         |
| Wines . . . . Casks                               | 27½                         | 49          | 26½                               | 153         |
| ,, Bottled . . Dozens                             | 2,975                       | 2,580       | 1,286                             | 769         |
| Muskets and Fowl- }<br>ing-Pieces . . } Cor.      | 576½                        | 46          | 271                               | 573         |
| Anchors . . . Number                              | 273                         | 136         | 121                               | ..          |
| Chains . . . . ,,                                 | 54                          | 68          | 15                                | ..          |
| ,, Weighing Cwts.                                 | 2,293                       | 2,661       | 946                               | ..          |
| Iron . . . . Piculs                               | 31,771                      | 25,801      | 1,972                             | 317         |
| Copper . . . . ,,                                 | 3,120                       | 2,071       | ..                                | ..          |
| Lead . . . . ,,                                   | 902                         | 2,196       | 1,786                             | 1,528       |
| Spelter . . . . ,,                                | ..                          | ..          | ..                                | ..          |
| Turkey Opium . . ,,                               | 170½                        | 96          | ..                                | ..          |
| Tokens . . . Number                               | 23,705,760                  | 7,828,560   | ..                                | ..          |
| Gunpowder in par- }<br>cels of 100 lbs. } Parcels | 5,056                       | 4,954       | 417                               | ..          |
| Cordage . . . Piculs                              | 918                         | 1,740       | 1,672                             | 446         |
| Canvas . . . Bolts                                | 6,344                       | 4,338       | ..                                | ..          |

|                          | Exports of Principal Articles. |             |                         |             |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|                          | To Great Britain.              |             | To Continent of Europe. |             |
|                          | 1851                           | 1852        | 1851                    | 1852        |
|                          | Quantities.                    | Quantities. | Quantities.             | Quantities. |
| Gambier . . . Piculs     | 68,365                         | 68,042      | 11,639                  | 9,006       |
| Tin . . . . . "          | 11,484                         | 16,197      | 4,368                   | 4,302       |
| Sago Flour . . . . "     | 47,337                         | 40,735      | 1,281                   | 303         |
| Sago Pearl . . . . "     | 27,481                         | 35,133      | 5,636                   | 7,084       |
| Black Pepper . . . . "   | 6,283                          | 17,000      | 26,168                  | 12,586      |
| Tortoiseshell . . . . "  | 174                            | 13,775      | 7½                      | 1,590       |
| M. o'P. shell . . . . "  | 1,848                          | 1,215       | 652                     | 122         |
| Gutta . . . . . "        | 10,505                         | 16,028      | 882                     | 922         |
| Nutmegs & Mace. . . . "  | 528½                           | 552         | 6½                      | 13          |
| Camphor . . . . . "      | ..                             | 100         | 60                      | 25          |
| White Pepper. . . . . "  | 1,724                          | 4,133       | 859                     | 275         |
| Benjamin . . . . . "     | 794½                           | 1,282       | 66                      | 150         |
| Gamboge . . . . . "      | 342                            | 408         | 18½                     | 10          |
| Antimony Ore . . . . . " | 22,817                         | 6,905       | ..                      | ..          |
| Coffee . . . . . "       | 136                            | 1,221       | 10,239                  | 6,224       |
| Sapan Wood . . . . . "   | 3,542                          | 4,074       | 3,712                   | 1,307       |
| Stick-lac . . . . . "    | 2,184                          | 1,939       | ..                      | ..          |
| Cassia . . . . . "       | ..                             | ..          | 722                     | 1,095       |

| Imports of Principal Articles from British India, 1852. |         | Exports of Principal Articles to British India, 1852. |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>OPIUM—</b>                                           |         | <b>Gold Dust and } Value</b>                          |         |
| Patna . . . Chests                                      | 155     | Bars. . . } in Dolls. }                               | 702,099 |
| Benares . . . . . "                                     | 4,250   | Spanish Dollars Number                                | 108,388 |
| Malwa . . . . . "                                       | 199     | Company's Rs. . . . . "                               | 3,066   |
| <b>COTTON—</b>                                          |         | Sycee Silver . Val. in Drs.                           | 36,907  |
| Bombay . . . Bales                                      | 15,917  | Other Treasure . . . . . "                            | 44,236  |
| Madras . . . . . "                                      | 2,806   | Japan Copper . Piculs                                 | 3,900   |
| Bengal . . . . . "                                      | 5,264   | Black Pepper . . . . . "                              | 307     |
| Wheat . . . . . Bags                                    | 12,807  | Tin . . . . . "                                       | 14,625  |
| Saltpetre . . . . . "                                   | 2,262   | Gambier . . . . . "                                   | 3,550   |
| Gunnies. . . . . Number                                 | 448,013 | Alum . . . . . "                                      | 2,088   |
| Cotton P. Goods Corges                                  | 8,107   | Camphor . . . . . "                                   | 1,311   |
| Rice . . . . . Bags                                     | 8,385   | Sapan Wood . . . . . "                                | 44,965  |

| Imports of Principal Articles from China, 1852. |         | Exports of Principal Articles to China, 1852. |        |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Gold Bars and } Value</b>                    |         | <b>OPIUM—</b>                                 |        |
| Dust . . . . . }                                | 69,462  | Patna . . . . . Chests                        | 130    |
| Sycee Silver . . . . . "                        | 42,125  | Benares . . . . . "                           | 1,621  |
| Dollars . . . . . Number                        | 111,289 | Malwa . . . . . "                             | 45     |
| China Cash. . . Piculs                          | 4,132   | Turkey . . . . . "                            | 34     |
| Tea . . . . . Packages                          | 28,765  | Cotton . . . . . Bales                        | 17,583 |
| Camphor . . . . . Piculs                        | 2,796   | Black Pepper . . Piculs                       | 25,185 |
| Cassia . . . . . "                              | 2,245   | Betel Nut . . . . . "                         | 26,921 |
| Alum . . . . . "                                | 4,046   | Rice. . . . . "                               | 54,574 |
| Raw Silk . . . . . "                            | 320     | Ratans . . . . . "                            | 39,345 |
| Tobacco . . . . . "                             | 6,262   | Ebony . . . . . "                             | 12,700 |
|                                                 |         | Sapan Wood . . . . . "                        | 8,289  |

| Rice, Imports.                   |         | Rice, Exports.                   |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| From—                            |         | To—                              |         |
| Arracan. . . Piculs              | 185,636 | Great Britain . Piculs           | 45,600  |
| Java and Bally. , ,              | 119,850 | Continent of } , ,               | 35,678  |
| Pinang and Ma- } , ,             | 112,907 | Europe . . } , ,                 | 58,005  |
| lacca . . . }                    |         | China . . . , ,                  | 164,680 |
| Siam . . . , ,                   | 22,737  | Other Countries , ,              |         |
| Cochin China . , ,               | 78,810  | Total . . .                      | 303,963 |
| Bengal . . . Bags                | 8,285   |                                  |         |
| Other Countries Piculs           | 137,471 |                                  |         |
| Sugar, Imports, 1852.            |         | Sugar, Exports, 1852.            |         |
| Siam . . . Piculs                | 32,100  | Great Britain . Piculs           | 1,513   |
| Java. . . , ,                    | 9,633   | Continent of } , ,               | 2,949   |
| Cochin China . , ,               | 15,940  | Europe . . } , ,                 | 27,892  |
| China . . . , ,                  | 8,204   | Bombay . . , ,                   | 20,962  |
| Other Countries , ,              | 7,702   | Australia . . , ,                | 12,515  |
| Total . . .                      | 73,579  | Other Countries , ,              |         |
|                                  |         | Total . . .                      | 65,831  |
| Tin, Imports, 1852.              |         | Tin, Exports, 1852.              |         |
| Malacca. . . Piculs              | 1,634   | Great Britain . Piculs           | 540     |
| Pinang . . . , ,                 | 210     | America . . , ,                  | 901     |
| East Coast . . , ,               | 215     | Continent of } , ,               | 938     |
| Elsewhere . . , ,                |         | Europe . . } , ,                 | 139     |
| In December . . .                | 2,059   | Calcutta . . , ,                 | 61      |
| Before in this Year .            | 41,735  | Bombay . . , ,                   | 695     |
| Total . . .                      | 43,794  | Elsewhere . . , ,                |         |
|                                  |         | In December . . .                | 3,274   |
|                                  |         | Before in this Year .            | 40,024  |
|                                  |         | Total . . .                      | 43,298  |
| Nutmegs and Mace, Imports, 1852. |         | Nutmegs and Mace, Exports, 1852. |         |
| Pinang & Else- } Piculs          | 182½    | Great Britain . Piculs           | 1,664   |
| where . . . }                    |         | America . . , ,                  |         |
|                                  |         | Continent of } , ,               |         |
|                                  |         | Europe . . } , ,                 |         |
|                                  |         | British India . , ,              |         |
|                                  |         | Elsewhere . . , ,                |         |

| Arrivals and Departures of Native Prows and Boats. |        |                                             | Reported Value of Imports and Exports from all Countries by Square-rigged and Native Vessels. |                        |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                    |        |                                             | Number of Vessels.                                                                            |                        | Value in Spanish Dollars. |
|                                                    | Boats. | Reported Value of Cargo in Spanish Dollars. | Junks and Boats.                                                                              | Square-rigged Vessels. |                           |
| IMPORTS.                                           |        |                                             |                                                                                               |                        |                           |
| Arrivals .                                         | 2,336  | 3,286,042                                   | 2,336                                                                                         | 792                    | 15,067,220                |
| Departures.                                        | 2,448  | 3,027,639                                   |                                                                                               |                        |                           |
| EXPORTS.                                           |        |                                             |                                                                                               |                        |                           |
|                                                    |        |                                             | 2,448                                                                                         | 823                    | 1,273,698                 |

## THE SINGAPORE FREE PRESS, PRICE CURRENT,

*Singapore, Friday, December 31st. 1852.*

| PRODUCE OF EUROPE AND AMERICA, &c.                            |          |         |         |          |  |  | PRICES.      | STOCKS.          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--|--|--------------|------------------|
| COTTON GOODS.                                                 |          |         |         |          |  |  | Sp. Dollars. |                  |
|                                                               |          | inches. | yards.  |          |  |  |              |                  |
| Grey Shirtings. . . .                                         | 54 reeds | 40 a 00 | 39 a 40 | P. Piece |  |  | 1.80 a 1.90  | Moder.           |
|                                                               | 60 "     | 40 00   | 39 40   | "        |  |  | 1.90 2.00    | "                |
|                                                               | 64 "     | 40 00   | 39 40   | "        |  |  | 2.00 2.10    | "                |
|                                                               | 66 "     | 40 00   | 39 40   | "        |  |  | 2.40 2.50    | "                |
|                                                               | 72 "     | 40 00   | 39 40   | "        |  |  | 2.70         | "                |
| White Shirtings, common                                       | 00 "     | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 1.65 1.75    | "                |
|                                                               | 60 "     | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.           | "                |
|                                                               | 64 "     | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.40 2.50    | "                |
|                                                               | 66 "     | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.55 2.60    | "                |
|                                                               | 72 "     | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.75         | "                |
| Spotted . . . .                                               |          | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.50         | "                |
| Brocade . . . .                                               |          | 66 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 3.30         | "                |
| Twilled . . . .                                               |          | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 2.50         | "                |
| Dyed Shirtings, Plain . . . .                                 |          | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 3.35         | Small.           |
| Spotted . . . .                                               |          | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 3.40         | "                |
| Brocade . . . .                                               |          | 36 00   | 40 00   | "        |  |  | 4.           | 4. $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Turkey-red Cloth . . . .                                      |          | 33 00   | 24 00   | "        |  |  | 3.50 3.60    | "                |
| Grey Domestics . . . .                                        |          | 40 00   | 36 38   | "        |  |  | 2.20 2.50    | Moder.           |
|                                                               |          | 36 00   | 36 38   | "        |  |  | 1.70 1.80    | Small.           |
| Madapollams, Grey . . . .                                     |          | 33 36   | 24 00   | Corge    |  |  | 17. 18.      | "                |
| White . . . .                                                 |          | 32 36   | 24 00   | "        |  |  | 18. 20.      | "                |
| American Drills, Brown . . . .                                |          | 30 00   | 30 00   | Piece    |  |  | 2.           | None.            |
| Cambrics, Common . . . .                                      |          | 40 42   | 12 00   | Corge    |  |  | 9. 10.       | Large.           |
| Fine . . . .                                                  |          | 42 44   | 12 00   | Piece    |  |  | 1.50 2.      | "                |
| Jaconets, Common . . . .                                      |          | 40 00   | 42 00   | Corge    |  |  | 18. 20.      | "                |
| Prints $\frac{1}{2}$ a $\frac{3}{4}$ , single colours . . . . |          | 23 00   | 24 28   | "        |  |  | 1. 1.25      | "                |
| Two and three colours . . . .                                 |          | 24 00   | 32 28   | "        |  |  | 1.25 2.50    | "                |
| Furnitures . . . .                                            |          | 28 00   | 28 00   | "        |  |  | 1.80 2.50    | Moder.           |

| PRODUCE OF EUROPE AND AMERICA. &c.                   |          |          |          |  | PRICES.      |       | STOCKS. |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--|--------------|-------|---------|
|                                                      | inches.  | yards.   |          |  | Sp. Dollars. |       |         |
| Turkey-red Chintz . . . . .                          | 24 a 00  | 28 a 00  | ,,       |  | 3.50         | 4.25  | Moder.  |
| Battick Sarongs . . . . .                            | 44 00    | 2 1/2 00 | Corge    |  | 8. .         | 9 .   | ,,      |
| Salendongs . . . . .                                 | 33 00    | 2 1/2 00 | ,,       |  | 7. .         | 8 .   | ,,      |
| Handkerchiefs . . . . .                              |          |          | ,,       |  | 1.50         | 2.25  | ,,      |
| Turkey-red Chintz Handkerchiefs .                    | 33 00 00 | 00 00    | Dozens   |  | 1.75         | 1.85  | ,,      |
| Barwood Ditto . . . . .                              |          |          | ,,       |  | 0.70         | 0.80  | ,,      |
| Sarongs . . . . .                                    | 42 00    | 2 1/2 00 | Corge    |  | 6. .         |       | ,,      |
| Turkey-red Sarongs . . . . .                         | 44 00    | 2 1/2 00 | ,,       |  | 8. .         | 11. . | ,,      |
| Handkerchiefs . . . . .                              |          |          | Dozens   |  | 1.50         | 1.75  | ,,      |
| Imitation Bugis . . . . .                            | 29 00    | 4 1/2 00 | Corge    |  | 12. .        | 14. . | Large.  |
| Velvets, assorted. . . . .                           | 19 00    | 20 00    | Yard     |  | 0.18         | 0.19  | ,,      |
| Cotton Yarn, Grey Mule No. 16 a 24                   |          |          | Bales    |  | 76. .        |       | Moder.  |
| 26 a 30 . . . . .                                    |          |          | ,,       |  | 82. .        |       | ,,      |
| 40 . . . . .                                         |          |          | ,,       |  | 90. .        | 92. . | ,,      |
| Turkey-red German-dye 40 . . . . .                   |          |          | Picul    |  | 80. .        |       | ,,      |
| Glasgow-dye 40 . . . . .                             |          |          | ,,       |  | 75. .        |       | ,,      |
| Imperial-red 40 . . . . .                            |          |          | ,,       |  | 41. .        |       | ,,      |
| Dark-blue 40 . . . . .                               |          |          | ,,       |  | 46. .        |       | Small.  |
| WOOLLENS.                                            |          |          |          |  |              |       |         |
| Bombazets, 28 yds. by 19 in. 4 . . . . .             |          |          | Piece    |  | 3.50         |       | Moder.  |
| Camlets, 55 yds. by 30 in. . . . .                   |          |          | ,,       |  | 17. .        | 21. . | ,,      |
| Long Ells. . . . .                                   |          |          | ,,       |  | 6.25         |       | ,,      |
| Spanish Stripes, Assorted colours . . . . .          |          |          | ,,       |  | 1. .         |       | ,,      |
| Ditto Scarlet colours . . . . .                      |          |          | ,,       |  | 0.75         | 0.85  | ,,      |
| MISCELLANEOUS.                                       |          |          |          |  |              |       |         |
| Anchors . . . . .                                    |          |          | Cwt.     |  | 3.50         |       | Large.  |
| Brass wire . . . . .                                 |          |          | Picul    |  | 26. .        | 30. . | Small.  |
| Chain Cables . . . . .                               |          |          | Cwt.     |  | 3 1/2. .     | 5 1/2 | Large.  |
| Copper Sheathing and Nails . . . . .                 |          |          | Picul    |  | 32. .        |       | ,,      |
| Copper Tokens . . . . .                              |          |          | Dollars  |  | 10.30        |       | ,,      |
| Cordage, English . . . . .                           |          |          | Picul    |  | 10. .        |       | ,,      |
| Ditto Russian . . . . .                              |          |          | ,,       |  | 10. .        |       | ,,      |
| Canvas, Scotch, bleached, Nos. 1 a 6 . . . . .       |          |          | Bolt     |  | 6 1/2. .     |       | ,,      |
| ,, English, bleached and boiled, Nos. 1 a 7. . . . . |          |          | ,,       |  | 7 1/2. .     |       | Small.  |
| Guns, 2 a 6 Pounders . . . . .                       |          |          | Pair     |  | 10.00        | 45.00 | Large.  |
| ,, Carronades, long, 2 a 6 . . . . .                 |          |          | ,,       |  | 30. .        | 55. . | ,,      |
| Gunpowder, Common . . . . .                          |          |          | 100 lbs. |  | 8. .         |       | Large.  |
| ,, Cannister . . . . .                               |          |          | ,,       |  | 14.50        |       | ,,      |
| Iron, English, Flat-bar . . . . .                    |          |          | Picul    |  | 2.00         |       | Moder.  |
| ,, Bolt, square and round . . . . .                  |          |          | ,,       |  | 2.00         |       | ,,      |
| ,, Nail-rod . . . . .                                |          |          | ,,       |  | 2 1/2. .     |       | ,,      |
| ,, Hoop . . . . .                                    |          |          | ,,       |  | 2.50         |       | ,,      |
| ,, Swedish-bar . . . . .                             |          |          | ,,       |  | 3 1/2. .     |       | ,,      |
| Imitation Ditto . . . . .                            |          |          | ,,       |  | 2.75         | 3.10  | ,,      |
| Lead, Pig . . . . .                                  |          |          | ,,       |  | 5 1/2. .     |       | Small.  |
| ,, Sheet . . . . .                                   |          |          | ,,       |  | 5 1/2. .     |       | ,,      |
| Muskets with Bayonets . . . . .                      |          |          | Each     |  | 2. .         | 2.50  | Large.  |
| Spelter . . . . .                                    |          |          | Picul    |  | 4.80         |       | ,,      |
| Steel, Swedish in tubs . . . . .                     |          |          | Cwt.     |  | 4.75         |       | Small.  |
| ,, 1/2 a 3/4 inch in boxes . . . . .                 |          |          | ,,       |  | 4.75         |       | ,,      |
| Tar, Stockholm . . . . .                             |          |          | Barrel   |  | 8. .         |       | ,,      |
| Coal . . . . .                                       |          |          | ,,       |  | 4. .         |       | ,,      |

| PRODUCE OF EUROPE AND AMERICA, &c. |            | PRICES.              | STOCKS. |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|---------|
| Window Glass . . . . .             | Box        | Sp. Dollars.<br>3·75 | Large.  |
| BEER, WINES, AND SPIRITS.          |            |                      |         |
| Ale, Allsopp's and Bass' . . . . . | Hhds.      | 25· 28·              | Moder.  |
| Other Brands . . . . .             | ,,         | 10· 15·              | Small.  |
| Claret . . . . .                   | Dozen      | 4· 10·               | ,,      |
| Champagne . . . . .                | ,,         | 11· 14·              | Large.  |
| Sherry . . . . .                   | ,,         | 41· 7·               | ,,      |
| ,, . . . . .                       | Butt       | 200· 225·            | Moder.  |
| Brandy, English . . . . .          | Gallon     | 50· 1·50             | Small.  |
| Gin, Dutch . . . . .               | 15 Bottles | 21·                  | ,,      |

| PRODUCE OF INDIA, CHINA, JAVA, &c.  |              | PRICES.      | STOCKS. |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
|                                     |              | Sp. Dollars. |         |
| Alum . . . . .                      | P. Picul     | 1·25 a       | Small.  |
| Arrack, Batavia . . . . .           | Half leaguer | 15·          | ,,      |
| Bees' Wax . . . . .                 | Picul        | 30· 32·      | ,,      |
| Betel-nut . . . . .                 | ,,           | 1½           | None.   |
| Cloves . . . . .                    | ,,           | 14·          | Small.  |
| Cubebs . . . . .                    | ,,           | 17·          | ,,      |
| Camphor, China . . . . .            | ,,           | 15· 16·      | ,,      |
| Cassia Lignea . . . . .             | ,,           | 20½          | ,,      |
| Coffee, Java and Padang . . . . .   | ,,           | 9·           | ,,      |
| ,, Bugis . . . . .                  | ,,           | 8·25         | ,,      |
| ,, Bally . . . . .                  | ,,           | 7·25         | ,,      |
| Copper, Japan . . . . .             | ,,           | 22½          | None.   |
| ,, Australian . . . . .             | ,,           | 22½          | ,,      |
| ,, China Cash . . . . .             | ,,           | 13·25        | Moder.  |
| Cotton, Bengal . . . . .            | 300 lbs. net | 19· 21·      | Large.  |
| ,, Bombay . . . . .                 | ,,           | 22½          | ,,      |
| ,, Madras . . . . .                 | 3 cwt. net   | 18· 20·      | ,,      |
| Cutch, Pegu . . . . .               | Picul        | 3·50         | Small.  |
| Cordage, Manilla . . . . .          | ,,           | 10· 11·      | None.   |
| Ebony, Mauritius . . . . .          | ,,           | 1·75         | Small.  |
| ,, Ceylon . . . . .                 | ,,           | 1½           | Moder.  |
| Elephant's Teeth, large . . . . .   | ,,           | 140· 150·    | Small.  |
| Grain . . . . .                     | Bag          | 2·           | ,,      |
| Gambier . . . . .                   | Picul        | 3·20         | Scarce. |
| Gamboge . . . . .                   | ,,           | 30· 32·      | Moder.  |
| Gold Dust, Pahang . . . . .         | Bunkal       | 26· 28·      | ,,      |
| ,, , Australian . . . . .           | ,,           | 30½          | Small.  |
| ,, Bars, China, 97 touch . . . . .  | ,,           | 33·          | ,,      |
| ,, Leaf, China, 100 touch . . . . . | ,,           | 33·          | ,,      |
| Gunny Bags . . . . .                | Hundred      | 5· 12·       | Scarce. |
| Gum Benjamin, 1st sort . . . . .    | Picul        | 90·          | Small.  |
| ,, , 2nd sort . . . . .             | ,,           | 50· 60·      | ,,      |
| ,, , Inferior . . . . .             | ,,           | 20· 30·      | ,,      |
| ,, Dammar . . . . .                 | ,,           | 8½ 8½        | ,,      |
| Gutta Percha . . . . .              | ,,           | 17·          | Moder.  |
| Hemp, Manilla . . . . .             | ,,           | 7·           | None.   |
| Hides, Buffalo . . . . .            | ,,           | 4·50         | Small.  |

| PRODUCE OF INDIA, CHINA, JAVA, &c.       |               | Prices.      | Stocks. |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
|                                          |               | Sp. Dollars. |         |
| Hides, Cow . . . . .                     | Piculs        | 6·75         | Small.  |
| Horns, Buffalo . . . . .                 | "             | 6·50         | "       |
| Mother-of-Pearl Shells . . . . .         | "             | 20·          | None.   |
| Mace . . . . .                           | "             | 50·          | Moder.  |
| Nutmegs . . . . .                        | "             | 70·          | "       |
| Oil, Cocoa-nut . . . . .                 | "             | 6·           | "       |
| Opium, Patna . . . . .                   | Chest         | 450·         | "       |
| ,, Benares . . . . .                     | "             | 470·         | Small.  |
| ,, Malwa . . . . .                       | "             | 475·         | "       |
| ,, Turkey . . . . .                      | Picul         | 350·         | Moder.  |
| Provisions, Australian Beef . . . . .    | Cask          | 36·          | Scarce. |
| ,, Pork . . . . .                        | "             | 30·          | "       |
| Pepper, Black, Rhio . . . . .            | Picul         | 6·           | "       |
| ,, Singapore . . . . .                   | "             | 6·10 6·20    | "       |
| ,, White . . . . .                       | "             | 12·          | "       |
| ,, Long . . . . .                        | "             | 10½          | Small.  |
| Rice, Java . . . . .                     | Koyan         | 50· 65·      | Moder.  |
| ,, Bally . . . . .                       | "             | 54·          | "       |
| ,, Siam . . . . .                        | "             | 57·          | None.   |
| ,, Arracan . . . . .                     | "             | 43·50        | Large.  |
| ,, Bengal . . . . .                      | Bag           | 1·75         | Small.  |
| Rataus, Banjermassin . . . . .           | Picul         | 2·75         | "       |
| ,, Other sorts . . . . .                 | "             | 1·90 2·      | Moder.  |
| Sugar, Siam . . . . .                    | "             | 4·25 5·      | Small.  |
| ,, Cochinchina . . . . .                 | "             | 2·80 4·      | "       |
| ,, Java . . . . .                        | "             | 4·50 5·      | "       |
| ,, China . . . . .                       | "             | 4·50         | "       |
| ,, Singapore . . . . .                   | "             | 4· 5·        | "       |
| Sago, fine grain without cases . . . . . | "             | 2·70 2·80    | Scarce. |
| ,, Flour . . . . .                       | "             | 2·50 2·60    | "       |
| Saltpetre . . . . .                      | "             | 6·00         | Small.  |
| Sandal-wood, Swan River . . . . .        | "             | 2·50         | None.   |
| ,, Indian . . . . .                      | "             | 5½           | "       |
| Sapan-wood, Manilla, straight . . . . .  | "             | 1·75         | "       |
| ,, Roots . . . . .                       | "             | 1·30         | "       |
| ,, Siam . . . . .                        | "             | 1·50         | Moder.  |
| Stick-lac, Siam, without stick . . . . . | "             | 8·50         | Large.  |
| Silk, Raw, Canton No. 3 . . . . .        | 99 Catties    | 237· 240·    | "       |
| Segars, No. 1 superior . . . . .         | 1,000         | 14·          | Moder.  |
| ,, , 2 , . . . . .                       | "             | 11·50        | "       |
| ,, , 3 , . . . . .                       | "             | 10·50        | "       |
| Tea, Junk . . . . .                      | 20 Catty Bxs. | 3·           | Small.  |
| ,, . . . . .                             | 25            | 2·75 4·75    | "       |
| Tin, Straits with certificate . . . . .  | Picul         | 19·80        | Scarce. |
| ,, without ditto . . . . .               | "             | 19·          | "       |
| ,, Pahang and other sorts . . . . .      | "             | 14· 18·      | "       |
| Tobacco, China, good . . . . .           | Basket        | 7·25 9·      | Moder.  |
| ,, Java . . . . .                        | "             | 2· 2·40      | "       |
| ,, Bali . . . . .                        | Picul         | 5· 10·       | "       |
| Tortoise-shell . . . . .                 | "             | 400· 650·    | Small.  |
| Vegetable Tallow . . . . .               | "             | 7·           | Moder.  |
| Wheat . . . . .                          | Bag           | 2·50         | None.   |



## REPORT ON THE MARKET.

SINGAPORE, 31st December, 1852.

THE arrivals from Great Britain since the 29th ultimo have been the *Matilda*, (viâ Batavia) *Chaucer* and *Zuleika*.

The Market has been very inactive throughout the month, particularly for European manufactures, and there is little prospect of an improvement before the Junks traders commence operations; Importers of Cotton Goods, however, seem more disposed to hold than reduce their stocks at the present low rates, and the few sales made in Grey Goods show a slight advance on prices ruling last month. The moderate prices at which Opium has been selling appears to have diverted a considerable amount from being invested by traders from the Eastern Archipelago in European Manufactures.

The Produce Market has been, and continues, very brisk, and since the arrival of the Steamer with the bi-monthly Mail a further advance has taken place in the principal articles of export to Europe.

## EXCHANGE.

On ENGLAND.—The Oriental Bank is drawing at 4s. 7½d. 6 months' sight, 4s. 6½d. 3 months, 4s. 6d. 1 month, and 4s. 5½d. at sight. Some Private Bills at 6 months' sight were negotiated early in the month at 4s. 7½d., but since the issue of the Bank Circular the rate has advanced to 4s. 8d.; 30 days' sight at 4s. 7d., at which we have large sales to notice.

On CALCUTTA.—During the month considerable sales have been made of Court of Directors' Bills at 220 to 221.

On MADRAS.—Nominal at 224. On BOMBAY.—Bills in demand at 223.

On CHINA.—Bills are still wanted, and command 5 per cent. premium.

## TONNAGE

Continues in great demand. Several vessels would find immediate employment to proceed to Arracan, and from thence to England, at about £3 5s. per ton. £4 has been offered to Hamburgh. From Arracan to this at 35 Cents, and an additional 45 cents per picul to China.

The *Hindustan* and *Rajasthan* are loading for London, and *Tinto* for Liverpool at the following rates:—

|                      | £. s. d.  |             | £. s.              |         |               |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|
| Tin . . . . .        | at 2 10 0 | per 20 cwt. | Coffee . . . . .   | at 2 18 | per 18 cwt.   |
| Sago in bags . . .   | 2 12 6    | "           | Black Pepper . . . | 2 15    | per 16 cwt.   |
| Sago in boxes . . .  | 3 0 0     | "           | Hides . . . . .    | 3 10    | "             |
| Gambier in bales .   | 2 10 0    | "           | India Rubber . . . | 3 10    | per 20 cwt.   |
| M. o'Pearl Shell . . | 3 0 0     | "           | Meast. Goods . . . | 3 0     | pers50cub.ft. |
| Gutta Percha . . .   | 3 0 0     | "           |                    |         |               |

## EUROPE GOODS.

COTTON GOODS. GREY SHIRTINGS.—Imports 5,775 pieces. These have been very dull during the month, but holders evinced some firmness in demanding higher rates, and the limited sales made have been at an advance of 8 to 10 Cents per piece on previous transactions. Those reported consist of the usual low qualities at d. 1'80 to 1'85, 64s. at d. 2½ to d. 2½. 66s. at d. 2'30. A good demand exists for 45 inch at d. 2'50 to 2'55 middling quality, and d. 2'70 to 2'80 fine. T. Cloth has been in more inquiry and sales made at d. 1'45 to 1'80 according to quality. Limited sales of *Grey Twills* at d. 1'85.

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—Imports 1,290 pieces. These have also been dull, the sales reported not exceeding 4,000 pieces at d. 1'85 to 1'90 for common quality, d. 2'40 for 60 64s. and d. 2'50 to 2'75. 45 inch middling quality. Limited sales of fine at d. 4½ to 5½. *Figured Shirtings* and *Brocades* in no inquiry at present.

**DOMESTICS.**—Imports 1,800 pieces. In little inquiry. Sales of 36 inch at d. 1'72 to 2, and 40 inch at d. 2'15. *Long Cloths* of 39 inch at d. 1'90 to 19'5.

**MADAPOLLAMS.**—Imports 500 pieces. Large stocks and in little demand at present. Trifling sales of 33 inch at d'17.

**AMERICAN DRILLS.**—No arrivals and much wanted; also *Jeans* and *Shirtings*.

**CAMBRICS.**—Of middling quality have been in good demand, and considerable sales made at d. 21½ to 25 for 42 inch 12 yards. *Jaconets* of middling to fine quality in partial demands and sales at d. 3. *Lappets*. Small sales at d. 10'30. Sales of *White Figured Muslin*, 10 yards at d. 12. Sales of *Dimities* at d. 1½.

**PRINTED GOODS.**—Garments abundant and only saleable at very low rates. Sales of *Regata Stripes of Assorted Colours* at d. 1'45; *Arab Stripes* at d. 2. *Figured* at d. 1'95 and d. 2½. *Turkey-red* at d. 3'85. *Furnitures of good patterns* at d. 2'50. *Turkey-red Chintz*—Only saleable by a case at a time at quotations. *Imitation Turkey-red Chintz*—Sales at d. 2'35. *Battick Sarongs*—Continue without inquiry, but *Salendongs* are in more request, particularly of common quality at d. 6½. Small sales of *Turkey-red Chintz Handkerchiefs* at d. 2 to 2½.

**DYED GOODS, Velvets.**—Of assorted colours, dull of sale at 19 cents. *Black* in more request, and sales at 20 cents. *Plain Shirtings*—In less demand at d. 3'35. *Figured Shirtings*—In more inquiry, and sales at d. 3½. *Brocades*—Stocks are still heavy, and although in more inquiry, beyond d. 4 cannot be obtained. *Turkey-red Cloth*—In less demand at d. 3'50 to 3'60. Small sales of *Turkey-red Dimities* at d. 3½. *Lappets* at d. 16, and *Mulls* at d. 44.

**WOVE GOODS, Barwood Sarongs.**—Of which the stocks are small, saleable at d. 5½ to 6. *Handkerchiefs*—Dull at d. 1'70. *Matadama*—Inquired for, and sales made at d. 1'75. *Turkey-red Sarongs*—Stocks in the Bazaar rather heavy, and in little demand at d. 8 to 10. *Imitation Bugis*—The imports of late have been of various qualities. Sales of the usual kind at d. 12½ to 14½, and superior, varying from d. 15½ to 21.

**COTTON YARN.**—Imports 1,001 piculs. In the early part of the month little demand existed, but within the last 15 days there has been more inquiry, chiefly for shipment to China and Siam, and sales made of No. 26s. at d. 83. No. 30 at d. 88, and No. 40 at d. 90 to 92. Holders are now asking higher rates. The sales of *Coloured Twist* have been limited at d. 67 for *Green*; d. 63 for *Blue* (of an inferior dye), and d. 66 for *Imperial-red*. The stock of *Turkey-red German-dye* is heavy, and difficult to reduce at d. 78.

## WOOLLENS.

**BOMBAZETS.**—Stocks continue large. Limited sales at d. 2'50 for *Scarlet*, and d. 3½ assorted.

**CAMLETS.**—Without inquiry and quotations nominal.

**LONG ELLS.**—Trifling sales of light weight (8½ lb.) at d. 5'75.

**SPANISH STRIPES.**—Can only be quitted at very low prices. The sales reported are for assorted colours at 85, and *Scarlet* at 90 cents.

**COPPER TOKENS.**—Dull of sale at 1,030 per dollar.

**GUNS.**—The market continues overstocked, and can only be reduced by forced sales at auction.

**GUNPOWDER.**—The stocks in first and second hands equal to the probable consumption for two years. Recent imports of *common* are offered at d. 8. Sales of *Cannister* at d. 14½.

**MUSKETS.**—Stocks are heavy and of various qualities. Sales of good

finish with bayonets at d. 40 to 45. *Fowling-Pieces*—Seldom inquired for. *Pocket Pistols*—Are still in demand, and market bare.

**METALS, Iron.**—Imports 1,475 piculs. The only sales to notice are about 600 piculs. *Scotch-bar* at d. 2.50, and *Imitation Swedish* at d. 3.10. Importers holding for higher rates, which will, no doubt, be obtained as soon as the stocks in the Bazaar are reduced. The demand for *Pig Lead* continues, but *Sheet* remains without inquiry. The stock of *Spelter* is much reduced, and saleable in small lots at d. 4.85. A fair demand exists for *Steel* at d. 4.75 in cases and tubs.

**MARINE STORES.**—An animated demand exists for *Marine Stores* generally and stocks of most articles in dealers' hands much reduced. Small *Anchors* of 2 to 4 cwt. in some inquiry. Larger sides seldom required. *Canvases*.—Continues in demand, arrivals being freely taken at d. 7½ for English, and d. 6 Scotch. *Copper Sheathings*.—Continues firm, and sales made at d. 32. Some inquiry for *Yellow Metal* (Muntz), but no transactions reported. With Russian and English *Cordage* the market is moderately supplied; last sales at dollars 10. *Tar*.—*Stockholm* and *Coal* in great demand, and Market cleared. *Nails*—Sales of small sizes at d. 4 per keg of 100 lbs. *Provisions*.—Continue to be much wanted, and first arrivals of *Beef* and *Pork* will bring high rates. With *Oilman's Stores* dealers are amply supplied. Also with *Hams* and *Cheese*—Market moderately supplied with *Bass* and *Allsopp's* Ale in cask, which is selling at d. 25 to 28. English-bottled of these brands continues in good demand and consumption increasing. Other brands in wood and bottle saleable, but at lower rates. *Wines*—Sales of *Madeira* in quarter casks at d. 27½, and *Sherry* at d. 25; the latter in bottles at d. 5 to 7. *Champagne* retailing at d. 12 to 15. Good *Claret*, which is seldom imported, wanted. *Brandy* in cask continues in demand, and sales made of common quality at 60 Cents, and superior at d. 1½ per gallon. *Gin*—Saleable at d. 2½.

#### EASTERN ARTICLES.

**ALUM**—Sales of small lots at d. 1.10. Stock trifling.

**ARRACK, Batavia**—Supplies and sales at d. 15 per half leaguer. Market moderately stocked.

**BEE'S WAX**—In more inquiry, and becoming scarce. Sales of good quality at d. 32.

**BETEL-NUT**—In demand, and none offered for sale.

**COFFEE**—Small supplies, and sales at d. 8 to 9½ for *Bugis*, and d. 7½ for *Bally*. Fine *Java*—Wanted.

**COTTON**—Limited sales of *Tinnevelly* at d. 17.

**COPPER**—No supplies of *Japan* or *Australia*, and both in good demand at an advance on former quotations. *China Cash*—Continues in fair demand at d. 13½.

**CAMPHOR, China**—Very little stock on hand, the Market having been nearly cleared by shipments to India.

**CASSIA**—Stock very light, the Market having been nearly cleared at d. 20½.

**COCOA-NUT OIL**—Stocks being moderate, prices are maintained; *Siam* being worth d. 6, and *Singapore*, of superior quality, d. 7½.

**CUTCH**—No stock, and wanted.

**CUBEBS**—No supplies, and in demand for India.

**COCHINEAL**—Has been in more inquiry of late for India, and supplies readily bought at d. 90 to 100.

**CLOVES, Mauritius**—No sales to notice. *Zanzibar*—Saleable in small lots at d. 14½.

**GAMBIER**—Continues in great demand. Contracts during the month have been made at d. 3.10 to 3.20; but since the arrival of the Mail dealers,

are asking higher rates. The Production likely to fall short next year, in consequence of the injury done to the trees by the drought some months since, and the late heavy rains.

**GUM BENJAMIN**—Supplies of fine white *Siam*, and sales at d. 90. Of middling quality, *Sumatra* at d. 50 to 60, and of inferior at d. 20 to 25. *Dammar*, or *Gum Copal*—Continues scarce, and much wanted; the small imports selling readily at d. 8 to 8½.

**GUTTA PERCHA**—In more inquiry, good quality selling freely during the month at d. 15½, imports, however, have been very moderate. Since the arrival of the Mail d. 17 has been offered and refused.

**GOLD DUST**—Imports from *Borneo*, and sales at d. 26½ to 27, and *Pahong* at d. 28 to 28½. An arrival of 300 buncals from *Australia* sold at d. 30½.

**GUNNIES**—Large imports, and sales at quotations.

**HIDES, Cow**—continues to be in good demand at d. 6·40 to 6·50, and d. 4½ for *Buffalo*. Supplies of *Horns* find ready buyers at d. 6½.

**INDIA RUBBER**—In more demand, and no supplies; last sales at d. 8½ to 8¾.

**M. O'PEARL SHELL**—None, and wanted; last sale at d. 20.

**MACE**—The demand is nearly over, but holders continue firm at d. 50, with an upward tendency.

**NUTMEGS**—The market has been nearly cleared at d. 70, and prices likely to advance.

**OPIUM, Benares**—Declined early in the month to d. 465, but rallied on arrival of advices from China a few days ago, and soon declined again; higher rates, however, are now being asked. Holders of *Malwa* are unable to quit a chest. Small sales of *Turkey* at d. 350 to 360, but most holders are demanding higher prices.

**PEPPER, Black**—The demand continues active, and supplies limited.—Contracts have been made at d. 6·10 to 6·15. *White* is also in good demand, and imports command d. 12 to 12½. *Long*—None offered, and wanted; last sale at d. 10½.

**RATANS**—Supplies continuing moderate. *Banjar* maintains d. 2·75, and *Straits* d. 1·90 to 2.

**RAW SILK, Canton, No. 3**—Imports being rather heavy of late, and demand limited, prices have given way, the last sale being at d. 237 to 240.

**RICE**—Imports 41,345 pls. Supplies moderate, and prices steady; *Arracan* selling at d. 43½. *Bally* cargo at d. 54 to 55. *White Java* wanted at d. 60.

**SAGO**—The demand for *Pearl* and *Flour* is very brisk at advanced rates; the former being contracted for at d. 2·70 to 2·80, and the latter at d. 2·50 to 2·60.

**SAPAN WOOD**—Market bare of *Manilla*. Imports and sales of *Siam* at d. 1·45 to 1·50.

**SEGARS, Manilla**—The demand continues active, and considerable sales have been made at d. 10½ to 11½ for No. 2, and 9½ to 10 for No. 3.

**SUGAR**—The Market is nearly bare of most descriptions. Sales of *Siam* at d. 4·60 to 5. *Cochin-China* at d. 3 to 4, and *Java* white at d. 5½.

**TIN**—Imports from *Malacca* 1,634 pls.; other parts 425 pls. The demand is still very brisk, and the limited supplies from *Malacca* command d. 19·80 with certificate, and d. 19 without. *Junk Ceylon* may be quoted at d. 19, and other sorts at d. 14½ to 18.

**TEA**—Sales of common quality at d. 3½ to 4 for 25 catties. Of the finer sorts the Market is nearly cleared.

**TORTOISESHELL**—Small sales at d. 540 to 655.

**VEGETABLE TALLOW**—In great demand, and prices gradually advancing; last sale at d. 7½.

**WHEAT**—Arrivals, and sales at d. 2.

## CHAPTER VII.

## ON THE COMMERCE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO PORT FLINDERS.

THE statements which have been adduced with reference to Singapore may, by some, perhaps, be considered as not quite proved to be applicable to our new port. For the purpose of satisfying the most careful enquirers, and encouraging them to seek for ample information, this chapter is devoted especially to the commerce of those parts immediately adjacent to Port Flinders.

Governor Grey says—

“With regard to the commerce that might be carried on by Northern Australia with the islands of the Indian Archipelago, I have made many enquiries, and have gained from the most authentic sources some important facts.

“One great drawback to this commerce at present is the necessity of coasting from place to place, in order to obtain a full cargo. The same inconvenience was felt along the coasts of Africa and Madagascar, until some enterprising London and Liverpool mercantile houses established the system of receiving vessels, which remained stationary at one point, whilst smaller vessels collected cargoes for them. Now a colony in some northern part of Australia would, in the same manner, totally obviate this inconvenience, by affording a place in which cargoes could be collected from small vessels, and to which the British manufactures to be exchanged could be brought. Coepang, in Timor, at the present moment, is used for this purpose by the *Dutch*.

“Notwithstanding the drawbacks occasioned to commercial enterprise by the circumstances above detailed, there at this moment exists a very considerable trade in the Indian Archipelago, almost wholly in the hands of the *Americans*. Indeed, no fact which I have met with has so much surprised me as the extraordinary diffusion of the American commerce, and the great spirit of enterprise exhibited by them. For many places where the British merchants can find no

commerce apparently worth their attention, the Americans carry on a lucrative and prosperous trade, and in half civilized countries, where the largest profits are always realized, the Americans are so eminently successful, that the British merchant cannot attempt to compete with them.

“This appears to arise from the following circumstance:—The masters of the American vessels engaged in this kind of trade are, in many instances, whole, and in all other instances, part owners of the vessel and cargo; whereas masters of English vessels have frequently little or no interest in the vessel and cargo; and are, moreover, frequently tied down by directions issued from the firm for which they act.

“The difference between these two cases is very great; the American can turn every circumstance that occurs to account: he can instantly enter into any speculation that holds out a prospect of success; and can act with rapidity and decision on his own responsibility. The English master, on the contrary, has usually a certain prescribed line of duty to fulfil, from which he cannot vary.

“Hence it is that we often see the American whalers with arms, ammunition, and other articles for barter on board. They whale off Madagascar, and, whenever an opportunity offers, carry on a lucrative trade with the natives. From thence their course is directed to St. Paul’s and Amsterdam, and afterwards along the coast of New Holland; and when it again becomes necessary for them to refresh, they touch at some island in the Archipelago, and the scene of barter is once more renewed. Their cargo eventually consists of sperm oil, gum copal, and other gums, ebony, tortoise-shell, gold-dust, seal-skins, shells, and curiosities; yet they originally started upon a whaling voyage.

“Captain Wickham, R.N., was at Valparaiso, in South America, in the year 1836, where he met a purser in the American navy, who had realized about 3000*l.* sterling; this person here quitted the American service, and laid out his capital in the purchase of a small vessel, in which, having embarked a cargo suited to the trade of the country, he started for the coast of California; in a short period he returned to Valparaiso, having in this single trip more than doubled his capital; this Captain Wickham also stated was by no means a rare instance.

"Having bestowed some attention on the state of trade in the Indian Archipelago, and collected considerable information from various individuals who had been engaged in it, I shall here subjoin a summary of such of the principal facts as I think may be depended on.

"Timor,—in all the ports of the natives, as well as those under the Dutch and Portuguese authorities, the produce is much the same. It consists chiefly of goats, pigs, poultry, maize, paddy, yams, plantains, fruit, sandal-wood, bees'-wax, and tortoiseshell in small quantities.

"The best ports of Timor for wax are Diely, Cootababa, Ockusee, Sitranny, Nilow, and Manatronto. It is gathered in June, cleaned in July, and sold principally in that and the two following months: but a vessel should be active, as enterprising people go along the coast, and buy it up for the Coepang merchants, who send it to Batavia, where it is said to sell for 120 rupees the picul; the price at Cootababa being lately about 80 rupees, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to the Spanish dollar.

"Sandal-wood can be had from March to October, the usual trading season; but from March to May is the best time, as vessels from Coepang and Macao are on the coast early, buying it up in time to return to Macao and China in the favourable monsoon. The best ports for sandal-wood are Cootababa, Ockusee, and Sitranny, but it is to be had most abundantly at Ata-poopa.

"Spanish dollars, muskets, and gunpowder are the essentials for procuring wax or sandal-wood, but if you wish to have a greater assortment, small quantities may be added of any articles from the following list:—

"Doubloons (Spanish);—Sovereigns (English);—blue cloth of Pondicherry of good quality;—ditto English (if cheap) of dark colour for officers;—white shirting or good calico for men and women;—handkerchiefs of colours and sorts;—white cotton stockings;—men and women's gown pieces of sorts and colours;—silk stockings, plain and ribbed;—shoes for men and women;—brandy, rum, gin, lead and flints;—quart glass decanters, cruet stands, dress swords, wine-glasses and rummers, knives and forks, razors, needles, scissors, ear-rings, bracelets, shawls of all sorts, mock jewellery, sugar, soap, biscuits.

"Bally and Sourabaya are good places for rice, but more

especially the former, as it is to be had cheap, especially if bartered for opium. The rice can be carried to Macao where a good price can always be obtained for it.

"Puloo, Batao, and Ockusee, on the coast of Timor, are good places for obtaining tortoise-shell at all times, as well as the islands in front of Timor, from October to December. The price is about 800 Spanish dollars per picul in cash; but in exchange for blue or white cloth, powder, arms, flint, &c., it would be obtained for much less.

"Rottee and Bally are both good places for ponies in exchange for cash or goods.

"The following is an account of our purchase and barter at the island of Rottee, in January 1838 :

- 10 horses for 10 muskets (old).
- 4 do. for 2 fowling-pieces (old).
- 9 do. for 27½ rupees each.
- 3 mares for 22 do. do.
- 8 sheep for an old regimental breastplate.
- 14 goats for a pair of pistols (old).
- The duty on each horse, was six rupees.

In Mr. Earl's translation of the account of the voyage of the Dutch colonial brig Dourga, which visited the islands of Kissa, Lettee, Mon, Damma, Lakor, and Luan, in the Serwatty group, east of Timor, it is said, in speaking of them,—

"The clothing of those who cannot obtain European, or Indian cotton cloth, is pieces of prepared bark fastened round their waists.

"The productions of these islands are—sandal-wood, bees'-wax, pearls, tortoise-shell, trepang, edible birds' nests, Indian corn, rice, vegetables, with abundance of live stock. As the use of money is scarcely known, these are only to be obtained by barter, in exchange for cotton cloths, brass wire, iron chopping-knives, and coarse cutlery,—the first article, cotton cloth, is most in demand; and M. Kolff suggests that an European merchant might carry on an advantageous trade here. The value of an ox is from 8s. 4d. to 10s.; of a sheep from 3s. 4d. to 5s. Bees'-wax can be obtained in abundance at Roma, at the rate of 2l. 7s. per cwt. The trade with the islands is carried on solely by natives, those of Macassar, Amboyna, and the Arrou Islands being



the chief purchasers ; and Chinese brigs from Java occasionally visit Kissa.'

"Geby, an island in the Gellola passage, has a fine harbour ; a large quantity of tortoise-shell can be obtained there for trade with the natives. The Asia's Islands, lying a short distance to the northward, are not inhabited, but abound in turtle.

"At the north-east end of Celebes there are two places, Monado and Keema, where the best gormootip or black coir rope can be obtained, at about 7 rupees per picul. These two places are under the Dutch Government. Some little business might be done there : stock in particular is cheap.

Another authority says — 'Tidore, near Ternate, in the Moluccas, is a good friendly place. Articles for trade are looking-glasses of a better kind, knives and forks, beads, watches, printed calicos, blue Pondicherry cloth, Salimpores, arms, powder, flints, lead or shot, razors, scissors, handkerchiefs ; in return for which you may get pearls, pearl-shell, tortoise-shell, birds of Paradise, nutmegs, &c.'

"At the island of Ceram the inhabitants are said to be favourable to the English, but Dutch vessels of war cruise often about there, and are very jealous.

"Bouton, a small island, with a Rajah, under Dutch protection, situate at the south-east end of Celebes, and off the bay of Boni, is a place where prows assemble and get vast quantities of shells and bêche-de-mer. Nearly all these prows proceed with their cargoes to Singapore for a Chinese market.

"Fine cattle are to be had at about four dollars a-head at the town of Bally, in the Straits of Allass, between Lombock and Sumbawa.

"New Guinea produces good bees'-wax, pearls, tortoise-shell, trepang, birds of Paradise, &c.

Mr. John Sullivan, R.N., a gentleman who possesses a vast fund of information regarding the Indian Archipelago, says, — 'To suppose that the almost countless islands in the Pacific Ocean do not give many valuable articles, and particularly tortoise-shell and pearl, would be no less an error than to doubt the existence of the islands altogether. No—the case is otherwise ; and it is needless to say that in the quarter alluded to there are already a few American

merchants, who have discovered, by their China, whaling, and sealing, voyages, many sources of wealth, and who are at this moment reaping rich rewards for their toil, while 999 out of every thousand of the European world know nothing at all about it. Nevertheless, there is yet a vast field open to the speculator, which must ever promise ample recompense for his confidence and outlay.'"

In the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, is the following authentic statement:—\*

"The Bugis from Celebes, and the traders of other islands in those seas, at present resort to Sourabaya, Penang, Singapore, Delli, and Coipang Timor, for such articles of supply as are required throughout the Archipelago. They make a trading voyage both going to and returning from these places, touching at the different islands on their way in the central and eastern part of the Archipelago—such as Mandar, Kaili, Macassar, Bonirati, New Guinea, Timor, Ceram, Sandalwood, Flores, Balé, Borneo, and many others. They pick up the produce of those islands, as also the produce of the fisheries on the coast of New Holland, and exchange them at the Dutch, English, and Portuguese colonies, for European goods. The exports of tripang, from Macassar, for the China market, according to Mr. Crawford's calculation, amount annually to seven thousand peculs; and sell at from twenty to one hundred and twenty dollars a pecul. Of pearl shell, according to the same author, there is exported annually to China, viâ Singapore, five thousand peculs, at fourteen dollars a pecul. Tortoise-shell, cowries, and shark-fins, also sell well in China; the latter selling at thirty-two dollars a hundred-weight. The tortoise-shell alone which was brought to Singapore by the Bugis in one year (1826), and sent from thence to England, amounted to sixteen thousand pounds weight; the bark of two species of mangrove also sells well in China.

"I have particularised those articles in order to show how valuable a part of the traffickable commodities of the Bugis traders is to be found on the northern coast of

\* This article was written with reference to Port Essington, the failure of which is hereafter accounted for. It is far more applicable to Port Flinders, and the one name has been substituted for the other throughout.

Australia and its neighbouring seas. The sea around the island of Timor, and as far south as latitude  $26^{\circ}$ , abounds with the spermaceti whale; and the whalers employed in that fishery, and on the north coast of New Guinea, at present resort to Delli and Coipang for supplies and refreshment. According to Mr. Crawford's account, there are 32,000 tons of shipping, and 3,200 seamen, employed in this fishery. Now, so fine and convenient a harbour as that of Port (Flinders) would certainly be a most desirable place of rendezvous for these whalers, particularly during a time of war.

"At present, a great many vessels go from Port Jackson to Manilla, Singapore, and Sourabaya, in search of cargoes for the European market, and load their ships with Chinese goods and the produce of the Indian Islands, deposited at Singapore and Sourabaya by the Bugis and other traders of the Archipelago. The articles brought from the Indian Islands (many of which are exported to Europe) are cloves, nutmegs, mace, pepper, rice, cotton, oil, indigo, tamarinds, betel-nut, gambier, antimony, cassia, ratans, dragon's blood, cane, sapan-wood, turmeric, mother-of-pearl shell, tortoise-shells, sandal-wood, ebony, sago, bees'-wax and honey, benzoin, ivory, camphor, benjamin, birds of Paradise from New Guinea and islands near it, striped and tartan cotton cloths from Celebes, gold dust and gold and silver bullion, and many other articles.

"For the China market, particularly, they bring trepang, tortoise-shell, mother-of-pearl, shark-fins, birds'-nests, mangrove bark, eagle-wood, hides, and a sea-weed called agar-agar. The European commodities which are exported in return, for the supply of the central and easternmost islands of the Archipelago consist of chintzes, cambrics, printed and white cottons, gaudy-coloured handkerchiefs, bandanas, velvets, broad cloths, iron and steel (both unwrought and manufactured), fire-arms and gunpowder, earthenware and glass.

"If a depôt of these articles was established in a convenient place on the north coast of New Holland, the Bugis traders would there find it easy to dispose of their cargoes in exchange for the commodities they require; and as the distance from Celebes to the Gulf of Carpentaria is only

about 760 miles—whereas the distance from that island to Singapore is 1200 miles—it would appear to me to be more convenient for them to resort to Port (Flinders) than either to Java or the Straits of Malacca ; and likewise, by the distance being much shorter, they might be enabled to supply the purchasers of their European commodities at a more reasonable rate than they do at present. The cost just now to the consumer is from 150 to 200 per cent. on the prime cost. The Macassar fishermen who came to the coast of New Holland, said, that Macassar was badly supplied with the necessary marketable articles ; and what could be procured were sold at exorbitant prices.

“The maritime undertakings of the inhabitants of the Archipelago never extend beyond the influence of the periodical winds, and they are averse to venturing far from land. The Chinese proceed on a similar principle ; and as, by the regularity of the monsoons, their junks come to Macassar, Coipang, Timor, and Sourabaya, it may be reasonably expected, that, with the certainty of finding a market, they would venture also a few hundred miles further, and would prefer a British port to either Dutch or Portuguese. The Chinese junks reach the coast of Java, from Canton (a distance of 1800 miles), in fifteen days ; the distance from the centre of the north coast of Java, or about Samarang to the Gulf of Carpentaria, is nearly the same ; so, with the same rate of sailing, they could reach it in fifteen days more ; and they would have a fair wind all the way—the north-east wind blowing in the China Seas, and the north-west wind prevailing to the south of the equator at the same season, that is, from November to April. Several Chinese junks trade to Macassar, and it may be imagined, that their owners would be glad to send them fifteen days’ further sail to Port (Flinders), provided they could there find an exchangeable medium for the productions of China, and be supplied with European goods.

“From its contiguity to New Guinea (which island is only 540 miles distant), it might possibly, at no very distant period, carry on a lucrative trade with it also. As its barbarous people become civilized, they will require clothing, utensils, and every manufactured article in use by their more cultivated neighbours of the islands to the west of them ; and the

satisfaction of introducing the arts and comforts of civilized nations amongst these unenlightened people, as also amongst the islands to the south-east of New Guinea—as New Ireland, New Britain, Solomon's Isles, New Hebrides, and New Caledonia, will devolve upon whatever nation establishes a well-appointed settlement on the northern coasts of Australia. There are some fine islands also in Torres' Strait, where some small establishments for fishing and taking turtle might be detached from the principal dépôt; and they might contribute materially towards facilitating the safer passage of ships through those Straits, the approach to which is attended with much danger, and demands great caution."

Mr. Crawford, who was most intimately acquainted with the resources and habits of those islanders, as well as with the productions and manner of trading in the islands, says in his excellent work on the Indian Archipelago:—

"In order to carry on an extensive intercourse with the Indian Islands, a colonial establishment becomes the only means of effecting this object. Such a colony should be situated in the direct route between the most civilized tribes of the Archipelago, and in the track of the navigation between the great nations of the East and West. The harbour should be good, and the land fertile: a free trade, liberal administration, and such a degree of regular government as would ensure security of persons and property, will inevitably ensure a large share of success.

"There ought to exist the most unbounded freedom of commerce and settlement to persons of all nations and religions; and a pure and impartial administration of a code of laws, suited to the state of such a colony, and adapted to the peculiar character of its varied population, should form the most important branches of the administration. A moderate impost on external commerce—which that commerce well protected should certainly afford—with the sale of public lands, and an excise on vicious luxury, would afford a sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of government and the charge of public works.

"Such an establishment would become a great emporium; the native trader would find it the best and safest market to repair to; and the scattered productions of the Archipelago

would be accumulated and stored in it for the convenience of the distant and inexperienced trader of Europe. The European voyager would find it the best market for his goods, and the sacrifice of a great nominal profit would be compensated by the expedition with which his business would be dispatched, and an immunity from those dangers and risk to which inexperience must necessarily commit him, in a direct intercourse with the natives."

NEW GUINEA.—With reference to this great country, immediately to the northward of Port Flinders, and on the coast directly opposite to the new colony of Albert, the following article is quoted from the *Singapore Free Press*, dated March 11, 1853:—

"The *Spectator*, an Indian Journal, in reviewing Captain Keppel's new work, expresses surprise that little or nothing has been done to develop the riches of the Indian Archipelago, or to penetrate the Papuan Archipelago. He conjectures, truly enough, that the 'somewhat unscrupulous jealousy' of Spain and Holland may have prevented enterprize in the Indian Archipelago, but he considers it strange that neither England nor America should have made greater efforts to render an account of the Papuan Archipelago. Had he inquired a little further, he would have found that precisely the same causes which have checked enterprize in the Indian Archipelago have operated in regard to New Guinea and the neighbouring islands.

"The Dutch claim as theirs a large part, if not the whole, of New Guinea, as well as the islands lying to the east of it, comprising the groups of the Arrou and Kei Islands, &c. Any attempt to form settlements in these parts, or even to open up trade with them, would be sure to call forth the indignant protests of the Dutch, who, no less there than in the Indian Archipelago, assert their exclusive right of property to countries which they cannot, by any possibility, occupy, and the resources of which they have hitherto failed to develop to any extent by commercial intercourse. A few years ago, on some alarm that New Guinea was likely to attract attention, a Commissioner was despatched from Batavia to vindicate the claims of Dutch sovereignty, by erecting posts and pillars here and there along the coast, and conferring on the chiefs of the savages sticks ornamented with brass crowns. Subsequently, we believe, a

settlement has been formed at Humboldt's Bay, but of its progress or purpose nothing whatever is known in this part of the Archipelago. A station, either European or American, somewhere about the north end of New Guinea, or on one of the neighbouring islands would be very useful. A harbour where vessels could refit and refresh would be very acceptable to the whaling ships which frequent the adjacent seas, and which at present find but a very cool reception in the Dutch out-stations, such as Ternate and the ports in the Molucca inlands. At present these vessels when they require repairs or stores, proceed to Hong Kong or Singapore, which takes them a long way from the scene of their operations, and must, of course, contribute materially to their disbursements. Such a station we have no doubt would become the focus of a very flourishing trade, if made attractive to the natives by being conducted on the same principles as Singapore. The trade of New Guinea alone would form a very important contribution to the resources of such a station. The articles which that country furnishes are of a very valuable description, and while some are suited for the European market, others are of peculiar value for the Chinese trade. The Dutch would of course object most strenuously to such a settlement, but while we are disposed to pay every respect to their just rights, we cannot concede that they should be allowed to play the 'dog in the manger' with such a large part of the Indian and Papuan Archipelagos as they choose to assert a claim to. They must either show that they have the means and the will of effectually occupying these countries, and developing their resources, or make way for others who are capable of undertaking the mission."

**ARROU ISLANDS.**—These islands were visited by Captain Stanley, R.N., and Mr. Earl, whose contributions to our knowledge of the Eastern seas are invaluable.

"The commerce of these islands appears to have increased considerably of late years, four or five ships and brigs, with a number of Macassar and Bughis proas, whose united crews were said to have amounted to 5,000 persons, having sailed with cargoes about two months previous to our visit.

The produce of the ArroU Islands consists chiefly of pearls, mother-of-pearl shell, tortoise-shell, birds of Paradise, and trepang; but the trade of Dobbo is not dependent on the

productions of the Arrou Islands alone. The Bughis proas import large quantities of British calico, iron, hardware, muskets, gunpowder, &c., from Singapore, to obtain which Dobbo is visited by the natives of Ceram, Buru, New Guinea, and of all the adjacent islands, it being the only spot in this part of the world where British manufactures can at present be procured. The articles brought for sale from New Guinea consist of nutmegs, tortoise and mother-of-pearl shell, ambergris, birds of Paradise, ebony, clove, and Massay bark, rosamala (an odoriferous wood), and Kayu-buku, a wood much prized for cabinet-work. British calicoes and iron are the principal articles taken in exchange for these by the proas from New Guinea.

The closeness with which the native traders conceal their commercial transactions, even from each other, render it impossible for me to learn the amount of exports and imports. Each Bughis proa imports to the amount of from 10,000 to 30,000 dollars, and at least one-half of her cargo consists of British goods. Taking the yearly average of thirty proas, and the amount of her import cargo at the lowest above stated, this will give 150,000 dollars, or 32,500*l.* sterling, as the amount of British goods imported annually into Dobbo. This appears a large amount; but it will be found, upon examination, that it is rather under than above the actual value. In fact, the greater portion of our cotton manufactures sold at Singapore is consumed in the less civilized parts of the Indian Archipelago, where the natives prefer cheap goods and gaudy patterns; while the people of Java, Celebes, &c., prefer their own or Indian manufactures, which, although dearer, are far more durable than ours.

The value of a return cargo of a Bughis proa at Singapore is about 200 per cent. on the outlay. Of the timber of the Arrou Islands there are several varieties, highly spoken of by the Bughis (who build and repair their proas there) for their durability, and the ease with which they are worked. Although of immense size, the trees are almost invariably sound; and as they can be felled within a few yards of the beach, it is not impossible that at some future period timber may form a valuable article of export."

TIMOR LAUT, say the same authorities, will be much fre-



quented by settlers in North Australia, in order to procure the tropical productions abounding there, which they could not find on the Australian coasts.

As the enquiry proceeds, so does the evidence rise up to an extent almost inconceivable, when the present unoccupied condition of Port Flinders is considered. Enough must have been adduced already to satisfy the most incredulous, of the vast opening for trade which the enterprise thus recommended presents, both to the trader and settler.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE FAILURE OF PREVIOUS SETTLEMENTS IN NORTH AUSTRALIA EXAMINED.

THE abundance and indisputable character of the evidence bearing on the establishment of the new settlement as a trading depôt, almost overpowers its superlative merits as an agricultural and grazing country of great extent, with a remarkably temperate and healthy climate, peculiarly suitable to English habits. The latter fundamental features are, however, of too great importance to be overlooked ; and, indeed, a disregard of those and other essential elements has already proved the bane of former attempts to accomplish the end in view. The formation of a settlement at Port Essington, on a rocky peninsula, jutting out into the ocean on the extreme north of Australia, is the case in point. As it is desirable to guard against any unfavourable opinions being entertained with regard to Port Flinders, in consequence of the failure of Port Essington and its predecessors, the following account of that affair is here quoted from the admirable work of Mr. Montgomery Martin, on the Australian Colonies :—

*“Port Essington, in 11° 6' S. lat., and 132° 12' E. long., is seven miles wide between Point Smith on the east side, and Vashon head on the west. The port extends about eighteen miles in a S.S.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. direction, with a depth of twelve to five fathoms. At the southern end it forms three spacious and secure harbours, each of them extending inwards three miles, with a depth of two and five fathom*

soundings ; mud and sand. The shores of Port Essington consist of little bays and sandy beaches, alternating with bold cliffs and steep clay-banks ; inland, a continuous forest of trees, occasionally relieved by undulating or round hills, with an elevation of 100 to 200 feet above the sea. At Port Essington, the sides of the harbour are formed by several low rocky headlands, and cliffs of red or white sandstone and ironstone, twenty to thirty feet high : between the cliffs are shallow coves backed by mangrove swamps, and behind a low country, with a sombre wood of low eucalyptic trees. *Victoria* (a recently-formed British station) consists of a few wooden houses, on a flat piece of land forty or fifty feet above the level of the sea, on the west side of the harbour. The soil in and around the settlement is poor, and except in the swamps and lowest hollows, composed of the detritus of sand and ironstone, without any apparent mixture of vegetable soil. Large tracts were seen with scarcely a blade of grass, and little or no undergrowth, and the forest, or 'bush,' looked like a badly-kept gravel-walk, on which a few small trees were growing. When visited by H.M.S. *Fly*, in August, 1843, there was not grass enough, within a mile of the settlement, to feed a single cow. The heat at Port Essington is very great. In January, 1845, the thermometer stood often as high as  $96^{\circ}$  at 8 A.M., and  $100^{\circ}$  and upwards at noon. For four years after the settlement was established, Captain M'Arthur, and the marines stationed there found it healthy ; but the rainy season, which commenced so early as October, 1842, and lasted to April, 1843, is supposed to have caused great sickness, which has continued with more or less severity ever since ; and the detachment of fifty marines have experienced considerable diminution of numbers, and been several times relieved. By the last accounts at the period at which I am now writing (January, 1850), there were only two or three marines fit for duty. The attempted formation of a settlement at Port Essington has been unsuccessful. Mr. Jukes, who has visited many of the colonies, and whose unprejudiced mind entitles his remarks to considerable weight, visited Port Essington four times, at different periods of the year, and thus strongly expresses his opinion which he supports by various arguments : — ' I believe it to

be utterly worthless as a colony, or as an agricultural or commercial possession.' It is not adapted for a harbour of refuge, as it is 600 miles from the extreme limits of the sea, where wrecks are most likely to occur; namely, the coral sea, and the eastern side of Torres' Straits. Low land and shoals, to the east of the harbour, render it difficult to find, and dangerous to approach; and the settlement of *Victoria* sixteen miles up the harbour, would, in addition to the deviation from the ordinary route of the fair or trade wind, ensure any passing vessel a detention of at least two days to look in there. Added to this, the climate is decidedly unhealthy; many valuable lives have been lost, and the government have consequently resolved to withdraw the men and officers stationed at Port Essington, which is now being done."

Captain Lort Stokes, who frequently visited Port Essington before its unsuitable position became too evident, thus wisely secures his judgment on its site from future impeachment, without unprofessional interference with the conclusions of duly-appointed authorities. He says, "In the selection of the spot to be occupied by a settlement, the capabilities of the soil must ever be the first consideration." The locality of Port Essington, "if we regard its own intrinsic worth, might be blotted out of the list of our possessions, without any material detriment to our interests." "There was a care-worn, jaundiced appearance about the settlers, that plainly revealed how little suited was the climate for Europeans to labour in." "There is besides a mangrove swamp immediately behind the settlement, which decreases its salubrity."

That part of the subject which relates to the agricultural and grazing capacity of the new colony, admits of ample elucidation; and it is hoped that the staunch old English yeomen, and independent, though perhaps poor, farmers and traders, who may have followed the subject so far, will continue it, and satisfy themselves that the prosperity which eludes their grasp in the mother country, is ready to become an easy prey to enterprise and industry in the virgin soil and undeveloped trade of the new colony.

## CHAPTER IX.

## NAME, EXTENT, AND BASIS OF SETTLEMENT OF THE NEW COLONY.

DEEMING the evidence which has been submitted in the previous chapters to be conclusive as to the advantage and necessity of establishing a colony at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, on the islands and mainland around Investigator Road, which we have called PORT FLINDERS, in commemoration of its great explorer :—the present chapter relates to the name, extent, and settlement of this new North Australian Colony.

The boundaries of a state should be determined by natural conditions, not liable to be mistaken or to vary. One important element in this question is the area drained by rivers ; another is the adoption of given meridians and parallels.

Let then the country draining into the Gulf of Carpentaria and the north-east coast, so far as the parallel of  $26^{\circ}$  south latitude, which is the northern limit of New South Wales, be taken as the east and south boundary ; and let the meridian of  $133^{\circ}$  east longitude, which nearly agrees with the watershed on the west of the gulf, so far as it is known, be taken as the western boundary, subject to such alterations and subdivisions, as the administration of good government may hereafter require. The name of the now-to-be-settled territory is already forestalled by the happy thought which led Captain Stokes to call the fine river falling into the port, the Albert River. It is, therefore, humbly suggested that the name, subject to the approval of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and His Royal Highness Prince Albert, be **THE PROVINCE OF ALBERT**. May it prove a worthy consort of the most successful of all the colonies in Southern Australia, the Province of Victoria. It may be anticipated that a town will arise at Sweers' Island, near the old tree which bears on its bark the names of Flinders' surveying ship, "The Investigator," and al-

the name of "The Beagle," so renowned for its usefulness on the same service.

That town should be called Flinders, and the port, as before said, Port Flinders, for which there is also an analogy in the origin of the name of Port Philip. The chief and first town of the province to be formed on the banks of the navigable river Albert, it is suggested should, according to the precedent presented by Melbourne in the province of Victoria, be called Pelham or Clinton, after Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The next step involves solemn responsibility. The great principle nobly declared by Lord John Russell, in the Instructional State Paper, with which he transmitted the Royal Commission to Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the 14th January, 1840, affords a modern starting point, if older authority were wanting. His Lordship writes—

"Since the year 1831, it has been most distinctly acknowledged, and inflexibly observed, that the Sovereign holds the lands in question, in trust, for the public good, and cannot, without a breach of that trust, on the part of the responsible ministers of the Government, be advised to make to any person a gratuitous donation of any such property. It must be appropriated to public uses, and for the public benefit. Of those uses, the first in order are such as respect the future improvement of the colony in which the lands are situate, by the dedication of all convenient tracts to public works, such as roads, quays, towing-paths, sites of public buildings and of military defences, sites of churches, school-houses, cemeteries, and places for public recreation and health. These and similar objects being provided for, the next use of waste lands in the colonies is that of creating public revenue by the sale of them. The appropriation of a part of that revenue to the ordinary exigencies of the public service will probably be

found inevitable in every colony." Further, "The funds raised by the sale of lands in the colonies will be applicable to the conveyance of emigrants thither, so far, but only so far, as that use of the fund may be compatible with a due regard for the pressing and necessary demands of the local governments, for which no other resource can be found. While fully admitting and insisting on the principle that the Crown lands in the colonies are held in trust, not merely for the existing colonists, but for the people of the British Empire collectively, it is perfectly consistent with that opinion to maintain that, in applying the proceeds of the sales to the essential purposes of local good government, which must otherwise be unprovided for, the real interest of the Empire at large, not less than that of the colony itself, will be best consulted. I shall, however, be happy to find the colonies providing for such purposes of local government by import duties and other means, thus leaving the produce of the sale of lands free for the promotion of emigration from the United Kingdom.

"In each colony the Governor holds a commission, enabling him, in the name, and on behalf of the Sovereign, to convey the waste lands to the purchasers of them. Except by a grant under the public seal of the colony, issued in pursuance of such a commission, no private person can establish a valid title to such lands."

This document may be called a declaration of the Common Law in regard to the colonial lands of England. It now remains to apply the principles therein enunciated to the local good government of the Province of Alberta, steering clear of modern projects, by the glare of their dismal failures, and resting on the solid ground of the ancient Common Law, the birthright of Englishmen in all parts of the British Dominions.

## CHAPTER X.

## THE LAND QUESTION. SURVEY AND SALE. OUR SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA.

IN approaching the knotty question of the sale of land in the colonies, it must be premised that surveying should invariably precede selling ; but it need not precede occupation.

The price of land ought to be dealt with like any other commodity, and its value should not be determined by any theoretical system.

As the survey and sale have usually been discussed together, it appears necessary and convenient to present the evidence on these two distinct questions as it stands. In the new colony it is proposed to regard them separately. But it may be premised that there has been but little, if any, attempt at colonial surveying in the Australian Colonies on a sufficiently broad and general system.

Mr. Montgomery Martin has most ably and industriously investigated the progress and state of the land question in Australia. The reader who desires full information is recommended to examine his great work ; and if he is not then content, there is a voluminous collection of Parliamentary Blue Books which may satisfy the most greedy inquirer.

The following summary is quoted from Mr. Martin's "Australia," pages 427 to 432:—

In 1843, the minimum price was raised to *twenty shillings* per acre, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament (5 and 6 Vict., cap. 36), with liberty to select, at the upset price, country portions put up to auction and not bid for, or on which the deposit had been forfeited. The land was offered for sale, in quantities of not less than a section, or one square mile = 640 acres. In 1843, a select committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales was appointed, to enquire into and report upon the upset price of land. In the same year, and in 1845, "immigration reports" were laid before the Council. In the resolutions and petitions of the Council, founded on these several reports, urgent protests were made against the continuance of a policy which had been productive of the disastrous results of annihilating the land fund, and simultaneously depriving the colony of capital and labour, by which a series of social revolutions, and an unparalleled depreciation in the value of property were, in a great measure, to be attributed. It was stated, in this year, that about 5,000,000 acres had then been alienated

from the Crown in New South Wales; of these, about 3,500,000 acres had been granted, and about 1,000,000 acres had been sold, at a price of about 5s. per acre.

By an order of Her Majesty in Council, dated London, 9th March, 1847, the lands of New South Wales were divided into three classes, according to their situation, to be denominated respectively—(1.) the *settled*; (2.) the *intermediate*; and (3.) the *unsettled* districts. The *first* comprised the settled and proclaimed counties of 1st January, 1838, and the counties of Macquarie and Stanley; also lands within three miles' distance from any part of the sea coast, or two miles from certain parts of the rivers Glenelg, Clarence, and Richmond, or ten miles from the towns or townships of Portland, Alberton, Eden, Bathurst, Wellington, Macquarie, Ipswich, and a town at the head of the navigation of the Clarence River. The *second* comprehended the counties to be proclaimed on or before 31st December, 1848; and the *third*, all the other lands in the territory of New South Wales. [In this enumeration, the references to Melbourne and the Port Phillip districts have been omitted, as this portion of Australia is to be formed into a distinct colony.]

Under this order, the Governor is empowered to grant leases or runs of land in the *unsettled* districts, for any term not exceeding fourteen years' duration, for pastoral purposes, with permission for the lessee to cultivate so much of the land in the said run as may be necessary to provide grain, hay, vegetables, or fruit, to the amount required for the use of the family and establishment of the lessee, but not for sale or barter. The rent to be proportioned to the number of sheep or cattle which the run may be enabled to support; each run to be capable of carrying at least 4,000 sheep, or an equivalent number of cattle, and not in any case to be let at a lower rent than 10*l.* per annum, to which 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum shall be added for every additional 1,000 sheep, or equivalent number of cattle, which the run may be capable of carrying. A commissioner of Crown lands to estimate the capabilities of the run. During the continuance of the lease, no person but the lessee to be suffered to purchase any of the run; but he to be allowed to buy the whole, or portions of not less than 160 acres, at a price of not less than 20*s.* per acre. On the *intermediate lands* the Governor may grant leases as above for not more than eight years; but at the end of each successive year of the lease, these runs may be offered for public purchase, subject to sixty days' notice to the lessee. In the *settled districts* the governor may issue grants or depasturing leases for one year, without interference as to time of disposal of said lands by sale or lease.

In 1847 (11th September), a select committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales on *immigration*, stated, that "the land fund—the source from whence any amount of expenditure incurred in immigration might have been defrayed, has been annihilated, in consequence of the determination to carry out the system of Mr. E. G. Wakefield; and the remonstrances of the colony against this ruinous system have been unheeded or misunderstood." The committee state, that—

"For a series of years the growth of the colony was uniform, progressive, and uninterrupted. From 1833 to 1840, the sum realized by the sale of the waste lands was upwards of 1,000,000*l.*, and by the expenditure of this amount 80,000 souls were introduced. Under this system, the population became more than doubled in a period of eight years. In 1839, it was the policy of the Imperial Government to raise the upset minimum price of land from 5*s.* to 12*s.*, and subsequently to 1*l.* an acre. This act may be regarded as one chief cause of the disasters with which the colony has since been visited, and of its present depressed condition. From 300,000*l.* a-year the



land revenue fell to 8,000*l.*, and immigration ceased; the sources from whence it had been defrayed, having been thus suddenly arrested."

In 1847 (23rd July), a select committee, consisting of ten members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, was appointed to inquire into and report upon what ought to be the minimum upset price or prices of land in the various counties and districts of New South Wales. On 27th September, 1847, the committee made a report, of which the following is an abstract. All the witnesses examined, whether favourable or unfavourable to the maintenance of a high minimum price, agreed that 20*s.* does not in any degree represent the exchangeable value of an acre of land in New South Wales; and that, therefore, the declaration of the Imperial Parliament, that land shall not be sold till it realises 1*l.* per acre, is a declaration that land shall not be sold until it realise more than it is worth; or, in other words, that except in particular instances, land shall not be sold at all. In confirmation of this statement, the following table is adduced:—

PRICES OF CROWN LANDS and QUANTITIES SOLD from 1837 to 1846, both inclusive.

| Year. | 5 <i>s.</i> per Acre,<br>Country. | 12 <i>s.</i> per<br>Acre,<br>Country. | 20 <i>s.</i> per<br>Acre,<br>Country. | Upwards of 20 <i>s.</i><br>per Acre. |          | Special<br>Surveys,<br>in Acres. | Total Acres<br>Sold. | Total<br>Amount<br>for Lands<br>Sold. |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
|       |                                   |                                       |                                       | Town.                                | Country. |                                  |                      |                                       |
| 1837  | 368,483                           | ..                                    | ..                                    | 212                                  | ..       | ..                               | 368,695              | £. 121,962                            |
| 1838  | 315,059                           | ..                                    | ..                                    | 228                                  | 30       | ..                               | 315,318              | 128,865                               |
| 1839  | 249,896                           | 30,218                                | 2,664                                 | 2,785                                | 351      | ..                               | 285,915              | 166,713                               |
| 1840  | 68,873                            | 111,720                               | 2,058                                 | 5,525                                | 1,291    | ..                               | 189,468              | 324,072                               |
| 1841  | ..                                | 16,430                                | 3,310                                 | 248                                  | 153      | 66,199                           | 86,341               | 92,636                                |
| 1842  | ..                                | 4,898                                 | 1,340                                 | 170                                  | 471      | 15,023                           | 21,903               | 18,312                                |
| 1843  | ..                                | 616                                   | 3,205                                 | 157                                  | 717      | 121                              | 4,817                | 12,205                                |
| 1844  | ..                                | ..                                    | 3,822                                 | 245                                  | 190      | ..                               | 4,259                | 9,174                                 |
| 1845  | 127                               | ..                                    | 4,440                                 | 1,754                                | 945      | ..                               | 7,267                | 18,025                                |
| 1846  | ..                                | 103                                   | 2,841                                 | 282                                  | 3,791    | ..                               | 7,018                | 27,700                                |
| 1847  | ..                                | ..                                    | ..                                    | No detailed returns.                 |          | ..                               | ..                   | ..                                    |
| 1848  |                                   |                                       |                                       |                                      |          |                                  |                      |                                       |
| 1849  |                                   |                                       |                                       |                                      |          |                                  |                      |                                       |
| 1850  |                                   |                                       |                                       |                                      |          |                                  |                      |                                       |
| Total | 1,002,440                         | 163,985                               | 23,683                                | 11,611                               | 7,942    | 81,343                           | 1,291,006            | 919,669                               |

NOTE.—Roods and Perches, and Shillings and Pence are excluded.

From the foregoing table the committee adduced the facts—

"That the sum realised by sales of land in 1846 is less by 3,000*l.* than one-fourth of the sum realised from the same source in 1837. It will also be observed, that in the five years which have elapsed since the raising of the minimum price to 1*l.* an acre, the whole sum realised by land sales is not quite 80,000*l.*, or two-thirds of the sum realised in the single average year 1837; and the whole number of acres sold about 45,000, or less than one-eighth of the number sold in 1837. The result is more strange, when it is observed, that in 1837 the population of the colony amounted to 85,000 persons, while, in 1846, the population amounted to upwards of 196,000.

Thus, by unwise legislation, has the permanent settlement been retarded in proportion as the demand for it has increased; and thus is the fallacy, that land can be made saleable at this price by the introduction of population, practically refuted. But it has been said by Sir George Gipps, that it is to the insolvency, which was unfortunately so general a few years ago, and not to the high minimum price, that the cessation of land sales is to be attributed. If so, we may expect to find the same paralysing influence extended to all markets as well as the land market. The comparison of 1837 with 1846 will completely show the fallacy of this suggestion. In 1837 the value of exports from the colony was 760,000*l.* In 1846, the value was 1,481,000*l.*, or nearly double. In 1837, the ships entered inwards were 400, of the burden of 80,000 tons. In 1846, the ships entered inwards were 767, of the burden of 141,000 tons. In 1837, the proceeds of sales by auction were 321,000*l.*; in 1846, 414,000*l.* In 1837, the coin in the treasury, military chest, and banks, was 427,000*l.*; in 1846, 827,000*l.* Thus, while our exports, our shipping, our circulating medium, and our population have doubled; while the proceeds of sales by auction have increased one-fourth, the proceeds of sales of land have decreased by more than three-fourths."

The inference deduced from these facts by the committee is that while—

"The producer of colonial exports is content to sell his commodity at the price which it will bring, the shipowner looks only for the current rate of freight; the importation of capital is regulated by the rate of exchange; but the Government, the great proprietor of land, refuses to regulate its dealings by these principles, repudiates the doctrine of supply and demand, and insists upon holding this commodity, of which it has practically the monopoly, till it realise a price, of obtaining which no practical man can see the probability or even the possibility. Thus, while every other branch of industry is carried on with the greatest activity and success, the settlement of the country, to which they ought all to be considered as subsidiary, stands still, and the mind is astonished by the anomalous spectacle of a colony active, enterprising, and energetic in all things, except the one alone for which it was founded—colonization.

"It seems impossible to reconcile this system not only to any views of sound policy but to any policy at all. If the Government regard these lands as a mere vehicle of revenue, as the means of raising the largest possible sum, narrow and unstatesman-like as such a view may be, this is not the way to carry it out. The figures above quoted show that the price is so exorbitant, that every other element of wealth in the country may double and leave it still a virtual prohibition. How often this multiplying process is to be repeated before the pressure of population and the increase of wealth will render these lands saleable at 1*l.* an acre it is impossible to say; but to judge by the moor lands of England, and the bogs of Ireland, the period is yet extremely remote. It must also be remembered, that even if the Government should succeed in selling land at 1*l.* an acre twenty years hence, for which now only 5*s.* could be obtained, the Government, allowing for compound interest at the rate of interest which money now commands in the colony, is considerably a loser; add to this, that by destroying the land fund, the Government is not merely foregoing a revenue which would be cheerfully paid and easily collected, but it is destroying future revenue by arresting the influx of that labour from which land derives so much of its value. It is not merely refusing to sell a commodity, but it is depreciating that commodity for ever. The supply of land which may become saleable by the Government is, for all practical purposes, infinite. What quantity will become saleable, depends upon the increase of population.

Government, therefore, as a mere dealer in land, has a direct interest in selling so much of it as will keep the tide of population continually flowing towards its yet unsold possessions.

"It is also the interest of Government to attract capital. In this also it has signally overreached itself. The principle of a uniform fixed price contains in it this objection, that that price must be tolerably high, since upon it alone the Government relies to protect its interests, but it has the counter-vailing advantages of certainty of amount and facility of operation. The principle of sale by auction has not these advantages, but it offers to the capitalists the attraction of referring not to any arbitrary standard, but to fair competition to fix the value. The Government has rejected all that is attractive in each of these systems, and retained only what is repulsive. Enough of the fixed price is retained to make the purchaser sure that he will not get the land cheap; enough of the principle of competition to make him uncertain whether he shall get it all.

"The facilities of steam and railway communication are gradually drawing mankind together, and countries possessing wild lands for sale, are beginning to enter into competition with each other. It is becoming daily more impossible to regard this as an isolated question. In determining the price of land, the competition of other countries ought not to be left out of sight. At the Cape of Good Hope land can be obtained for one-tenth, in Canada for one-fourth, and, as it appears recently, in the United States, for one-fortieth of the sum demanded for a like quantity here. In utter defiance of the principles of political economy, it is expected that persons will give for our poor and inaccessible land four, five, ten, or forty times the price at which nearer and more accessible land may be obtained. It is assumed that one acre of land in Australia equals in value four in Canada, five in the United States, ten at the Cape of Good Hope, and forty in the territory recently ceded to the United States by the Chactaw Indians. Your committee apprehend, that as regards the greater part of the lands of this colony, it is perfectly immaterial whether the minimum price fixed be 1*l.* or 20*l.* an acre. The former price is shown, by reason and experience, to be utterly unattainable, and the latter is no more.

"Your committee would wish to be understood as by no means undervaluing the great advantages derived by the colony from pastoral pursuits, but they are desirous of expressing their opinion that the Home Government, by prohibiting the sale of land, has given an undue stimulus to those pursuits, and undue discouragement to agriculture and settled industry. The prohibition of the purchase of land has aggravated that tendency to dispersion which it was designed to counteract. The true policy, in the opinion of your committee, is neither to stimulate nor check this tendency to dispersion, which is the natural precursor of that state of society in which the tendency to concentration arises. Unhappily, the Government has not observed this rule. In its anxiety to concentrate the population, it has placed a price on land which rendered it impossible for those who occupied it to occupy as purchasers. The occupation has been conceded, the proprietorship has been withheld, and thus has the industry of the colony been forced into the channel most consistent with occupation without title, and the policy which ambitiously aimed at forcing the colonists prematurely to become villagers and agriculturists, has resulted in compelling them to become shepherds and herdsmen. Had the prohibitory price thus imposed been the result of a sincere though mistaken conviction, your committee, while depreciating its impolicy, could not have murmured at its injustice. But it is now notorious in the colony, and can be proved by unquestionable evidence, that it was not with a view to the welfare of New South Wales,

but of South Australia, that this obnoxious law was passed. Colonel Torrens and his brother commissioners, the founders of the South Australian colony, felt that it would be impossible to obtain 1*l.* an acre for land there, while land of the same quality could be obtained at 5*s.* an acre here. They felt that whatever were the merits of their scheme, it would not bear the test of the free-trade principle of competition, and they sacrificed, without remorse or hesitation, the present and actual interests of the older colony, to the future, and, as it has turned out, visionary prospects of the younger. Thus it happens, that 200,000 persons are impoverished, that their interests may not stand in the way of the imaginary interests of 25,000; and while colony after colony has been emancipated from the 1*l.* an acre system, New South Wales has been unable to obtain her deliverance, precisely because, to her, that deliverance would be most valuable. Van Diemen's Land is of too small extent—New Zealand is too distant—to impair, by their competition, the working of the 1*l.* an acre system in South Australia. If the land of New South Wales were rich, the continuance of the price would be a matter of indifference; if the land were small in quantity, the reduction of the price would be unimportant; it is the great quantity and poor quality of the land—the very causes which render the high price ruinous to New South Wales—that constitute its principal attractions in the eyes of the South Australian Commissioners."

From a return made to Government, up to June 30th, 1836, it appears that the land comprised within the then nineteen counties of the colony, was upwards of 25,000,000 acres, of which only about 5,000,000 acres had been alienated; showing that there was consequently, abundance still left within the settled districts for cultivation, if required. The best lands have been selected by those who received grants, the next best put up to sale by Government at 5*s.* an acre; after selections had been made for several years at this price, the third best were offered at 12*s.* an acre; and, finally, the refuse or remainder of these grants and sales was put up for sale by auction at 20*s.* per acre. (Evidence before Legislative Council, 14th August, 1847.)

After these forcible arguments, the Legislative Council Committee proceed to show, with a warmth which is, perhaps, only too excusable, that it would have been happy for the colony, if the ruin of her land fund—the dispersion of her people—the stoppage of immigration—and the dissemination of a just spirit of discontent, had been the only results of this high minimum price. A party arose in the colony, a class termed "squatters," who, forbidden by the policy of the Government to buy land, were forced to occupy it, and did so, under the authority of the Government, on a *lease* of 1*d.* per acre, until the lands thus occupied were *purchased* at 1*l.* per acre. Hence, the squatters—men of intelligence, education, property, and good family in England, who had made New South Wales their home—began to feel that they had a vested interest in maintaining the prohibitory price, as a guarantee that their occupation would not be disturbed; the result is, that "the land possessions of the British Crown in New South Wales have been in a manner *alienated*." The settlers object to the land-orders which authorise leasing at 1*d.* per acre, because they confiscate the lands of the colony; the squatters approve of them, because they see no limit to the term of their occupation; under them, temporary occupation is consequently equivalent to permanent alienation—thus the system has led to grants of land on the most lavish and extravagant scale. By the process now in operation, it is alleged that all the desirable land within the nineteen counties, and *beyond the settled districts*, viz., about 1,800,000 acres, have been, in reality, bestowed on about 1,800 persons, at the rate of 100,000 acres per head, in a country where there is one inhabitant to every 100,000 acres, and

has coupled with this premature appropriation, a regulation prohibiting agriculture. Thus, it is asserted, dispersion is enforced; co-operation, the division of labour, religious and secular instruction, are all out of the question; landed property is accumulated in the hands of a few to the exclusion of the many; and the high minimum price of land (20s. per acre) has operated as a bar to the natural and secure investment in the soil of the surplus capital of the colony, hazardous speculation has been consequently encouraged, and capital forced into other and less legitimate channels. The opponents of the high minimum price of land do not deny the benefits arising from the sale of waste lands; or that a sum of nearly 1,000,000*l.* was raised by such sale in New South Wales, in ten years, whereby 50,000 immigrants have been introduced into the colony; but they contend, that of the gross proceeds of the land sales (920,000*l.*), 835,000*l.* were received during the first five years of the period, when the price of land was under 20s. an acre, and but 85,000*l.* during the second period of five years, when the minimum price was 20s. an acre; thus, if the sum raised from land has been the means of introducing 50,000 immigrants, 46,000 have been introduced by land put up under 20s. an acre, and 4,000 only, by land put up at 20s. an acre. In other words, had the price remained unaltered, the colonists might have raised 2,000,000*l.*, instead of 1,000,000*l.*, and introduced 100,000 immigrants instead of 50,000. It is in evidence, that no land has been purchased for grazing purposes at 20s. an acre; according to some witnesses 10s. per acre would be a fair price for arable, and 5s. per acre for grazing land. According to Mr. De Salis, 2s. 6*d.*, and a rent equivalent to four per cent. would be a proper valuation. Mr. Ogilvy thinks 1s. an acre sufficient. There is much land on which a rabbit could not feed, and 3s. an acre would be gladly received for 10,000 acres in the county of Macquarie. Many large tracts of a deep dark rich soil are covered with dense forests, which are not likely to be cleared for years to come.

Mr. Justice Therry, in his evidence before the House of Lords (9th June, 1848), being asked to what he attributed the considerable falling off in the land sales of New South Wales, of late years, answered—

“Principally I should attribute it to the minimum price of land being 1*l.* an acre, and to the great extent to which, in consequence of this price, the squatting system has extended, as well as to the great facility afforded for the occupation of land without purchase; that naturally prevents the sale of land. If a person can occupy and use land without buying it, and buying too at a price beyond its value, it is plain he will not purchase it.”

The witness proceeded to say, that so far, from 20s. upset price for land having a tendency to secure the concentration of the population, as was alleged would be the case, it had quite the contrary effect, and had promoted dispersion, by a system which operates as a prohibition upon the sale of land. This experienced judge fully corroborated the statements of the Legislative Council Committee, and asserted, that “the squatters have an occupation which they consider as almost equivalent to the proprietorship of the soil: for all practical purposes, they have an ownership of the land almost as if they had purchased it.” Four acres to one sheep, would entitle the squatter having the smallest required number of sheep (4,000), to 16,000 acres of land; and it must be evident he could not afford to pay 20s. an acre, or 16,000*l.*, for mere pastoral purposes.

In 1848 (29th March), the Governor issued regulations for the occupation of Crown lands *within the settled districts*; viz.—*First.* That holders of purchased lands within those districts may depasture stock on vacant Crown lands immediately contiguous to their respective properties, but that they

shall only possess a *commonage* right, to be enjoyed alike by all the holders of adjacent purchased lands, and may not erect any hut or building, or clear, enclose, or cultivate any portion thereof. *Second.* That sections of not less than 640 acres will be let, with exclusive right, for one year, at a rent of not less than 10s. per section, for pastoral purposes only. Leases not assignable, or lands to be sublet. Wood, excepting cedar, may be cut for fencing stock-yards, for fire-bote, or domestic uses. Lands open to purchase under the ordinary regulations: lessee to receive a notice of one month. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has authorised the local government of New South Wales to raise a loan of 100,000*l.* for emigration purposes, on the security of the land revenues of the colony, but declined to alter the upset price of 20s. per acre for land. It is rightly deemed that any alteration in price ought to apply to all the southern colonies; and Her Majesty's Government propose to leave the settlement of this question to the United Assembly of all the Australasian colonies. It will, however, be a very difficult matter, owing to the interests which have grown up under the present system.

The quantity of land sold, and the proceeds thence derived, in New South Wales and Port Phillip, and the amount derived from squatting licences, are thus shown since 1831:—

| Year.  | Number of Acres Sold. | Purchase Money. | Squatting Licences. |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|        |                       | £.              | £.                  |
| 1831   | ..                    | 2,597           | ..                  |
| 1832   | 20,860                | 12,509          | ..                  |
| 1833   | 20,001                | 24,956          | .                   |
| 1834   | 91,399                | 41,484          | ..                  |
| 1835   | 271,947               | 87,097          | ..                  |
| 1836   | 389,546               | 123,049         | 3,680               |
| 1837   | 370,376               | 117,583         | 4,780               |
| 1838   | 316,160               | 115,825         | 6,280               |
| 1839   | 272,620               | 166,578         | 11,675              |
| 1840   | 189,787               | 317,251         | 13,300              |
| 1841   | 85,776                | 93,387          | 15,701              |
| 1842   | 10,673                | 19,444          | 16,255              |
| 1843   | 5,227                 | 11,664          | 19,823              |
| 1844   | 4,260                 | 9,016           | 32,031              |
| 1845   | 7,747                 | 22,821          | 38,943              |
| 1846   | 7,683                 | 30,183          | 42,749              |
| 1847   | 28,726                | 76,962          | 43,075              |
| 1848   | 21,480                | 41,919          | 46,903              |
| 1849 } | ..                    | No returns.     | ..                  |
| 1850 } | ..                    |                 |                     |

In 1848, the whole quantity of land sold in the New South Wales District was only 3,472 acres, and the sale proceeds 7,384*l.*; in the Port Phillip District, 18,007 acres, proceeds, 24,030*l.* The revenue derived from squatting licences, in 1848, was—*within* the settled districts, New South Wales, 1,116*l.*; Port Phillip, 383*l.* = 1,549*l.*; *without* the settled districts, New South Wales, 26,490*l.*; Port Phillip, 18,863*l.* = 45,353*l.*

## CHAPTER XI.

## THE LAND QUESTION. SURVEY AND SALE. THE SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE following plan is adopted by the Government of the United States for the survey and allotment of State lands, intended for sale.

The General Land Office in the Treasury Department at Washington directs all the proceedings. Registrars, receivers, deputy surveyors, &c., are thence instructed and appointed to local land offices, from whence returns are made annually. All controversies are decided by the Commissioner, often with the aid of the Attorney-General. A complete transcript of all the proceedings, arguments, and decisions in every case is preserved for future guidance. Formerly every patent was signed by the President, but he is now relieved from that burden.

The district to be surveyed is intersected by a meridional line, with a base line at right angles, from which lines are drawn to intersect each other, parallel with the meridian and base at successive intervals of six miles, so as to form contiguous blocks of thirty-six square miles. Each block is subdivided, first, into 36 sections of 640 acres each, or a square mile. Each section is numbered. A purchaser may obtain a Government title for a whole section, or for a half, quarter, eighth, or sixteenth part of it, being 640, 320, 160, 80, and 40 acres respectively. Maps on the scale of one mile to an inch are usually kept to indicate the sold and unsold lands. Copies of township maps may be procured at a small charge.

The public lands of the United States cover an estimated area of 1,584,000,000 acres. Exclusive of the lands in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Utah, the Indian and Nebraska Territories, the entire area of the public domain is stated, after a careful examination, to have been 424,103,750 acres. About one-fourth of this, up to November 30, 1850, had been sold, and 135,339,092 dollars\* received therefore. The aggregate outlay of every kind upon these lands to the same date, including cost of purchase, surveying, and selling, was 74,957,879 dollars, leaving as net profit to the Government 60,381,213 dollars, or an annual average of nearly a million of dollars for the last 50 years. If there should be added to this, at the rate of 1·25 dollar per acre, the value of the land granted for bounties, schools, internal improvements, &c., it would amount to nearly double the above sum. The average cost per acre to the Government of acquiring title, &c., to the lands is 14·41 cents; of survey, 2·07 cents; of selling and managing, 5·32 cents; in all 21·80 cents; while it receives 1·25 dollar per acre, or a net profit on each acre sold of 1·032 dollar.

The result of this liberal policy, combined with the shortness of the distance, has overcome the repugnance of Englishmen to an unsuitable climate and ultra-democratic institutions; causing the abandonment of their natural loyalty, and old English feelings.

The following statement of the total emigration from the

\* The American dollar is equal to 4s. 2d. English.

United Kingdom, during the twenty-five years from 1825 to 1849, clearly shows our irreparable loss :—

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| To the United States . . . . .                 | 1,260,247 |
| North American Colonies . . . . .              | 808,740   |
| Australian Colonies, and New Zealand . . . . . | 185,386   |
| All other places . . . . .                     | 30,811    |
| Total . . . . .                                | 2,285,184 |

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE LAND QUESTION. SURVEY AND SALE. OUR SYSTEMS IN THE COLONIES OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THERE are two other methods which have been practised in South Africa, but they have been interrupted, partly by the disturbed state of the native tribes, and partly by the unattractive nature of the country for English occupation; and in one important instance, by the dishonesty and neglect of a person who had undertaken its management.

#### I.—REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE SALE OF LAND IN THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE AND NATAL.

1. The unappropriated Crown Lands are sold in freehold, and by public auction only.

2. Unless it be otherwise notified the upset price will be at the Cape two shillings (2s.) per acre, (one acre is about half a morgen) and at Natal four shillings (4s.) per acre; but the Governor, for the time being, will have power to fix such higher upset price as the locality or other circumstances may render expedient, of which due notice will always be publicly given.

3. Persons desirous of becoming purchasers will apply in writing to the Secretary to the Colonial Government respecting the land they wish to have put up for sale; stating in what division it is situated, and, as far as practicable, its position, boundaries, and probable extent. These applications, after being recorded in the Colonial Office, will be transmitted to the Surveyor-General, who, if he see no objection to the land being disposed of, will call upon the applicant to deposit with him the probable expense of the survey, which expense will be calculated upon the following tariff, and be borne by the eventual purchaser :—

|                                                                                                          | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| For a piece of ground, and dividing the same into lots or erven, for the first four lots, each . . . . . | 0 | 12 | 0  |
| For any beyond that number . . . . .                                                                     | 0 | 9  | 0  |
| For the measurement of any piece of land up to 10 morgen, (about 20 acres) . . . . .                     | 0 | 12 | 0  |
| For every morgen above 10 up to 100, per morgen . . . . .                                                | 0 | 0  | 3  |
| For 100 morgen . . . . .                                                                                 | 1 | 14 | 6  |
| For every morgen above 100 as far as 500, per morgen . . . . .                                           | 0 | 0  | 1½ |
| For 500 morgen . . . . .                                                                                 | 4 | 4  | 6  |
| For every morgen above 500, per morgen . . . . .                                                         | 0 | 0  | 1  |



|                                           | £  | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| For 2000 morgen . . . . .                 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| For every morgen above the same . . . . . | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| For every diagram . . . . .               | 0  | 12 | 0  |

4. Should the applicant not become the purchaser, the amount deposited by him will be refunded when paid by the eventual purchaser; but should no sale take place, no refund can be made.

5. Lands offered for sale will be advertized for two months in the "Government Gazette," at the expiration of which time they will be sold by public auction.

6. Ten per cent. of the purchase money must be paid at the time of sale, and the balance (with the expenses of survey, if the purchaser did not make the deposit), within one calendar month from the day of sale; in default of which, the 10 per cent. so paid will be forfeited to the Colonial Treasury.

7. Persons will be at liberty to make payments for colonial lands in this country, for which payment or deposit they will receive an order for credit to the same amount in any purchase of land they may effect in the colony, and will have the privilege of naming a proportionate number of emigrants for a free passage, as explained in the next article. The deposits must be made in one or more sums of 100*l.* each at the Bank of England, to the account of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners; and the depositor must state at the time the district in which the land is to be selected, and give notice to the Commissioners of the deposit. Upon production of the Bank's receipt for the money, the Commissioners will furnish the depositor with a certificate, stating the amount which he has paid, and entitling him to obtain credit for that sum in any purchase which he may effect in the colony, subject to all rules and regulations in force in the colony at the time such purchase may be made.

8. For every sum of 100*l.*, deposited as above, the depositor will be entitled for six months from the date of payment, to name a number of properly-qualified emigrants, equal to *seven adults*, for a *free passage*. Two children between one and fourteen are to be reckoned as equal to one adult. The emigrants are required to be chosen from the class named in the subjoined Regulations on Emigration, and must be going out with the intention to work for wages. They are to be subject to the approval of the Commissioners, and must, in all respects, fall within these regulations.

## II.—REGULATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF EMIGRANTS.

The terms and conditions governing the selection of candidates for free passages is here described. But as that part of the detail does not relate directly to our present object, it will suffice to enumerate the various heads under which the regulations are divided, viz:—

*Trade and Calling.*—Including only agricultural labourers, mechanics, &c., intending to work for wages. Small traders and farmers intending to buy land, or trade there, are excluded, as well as persons in receipt of parochial relief.

*Description of Family and Age.*—Principally married couples not above 40. Young couples without children preferred.

*Character.*—A certificate is required.

*Form of Application.*—Must be obtained at the office of the Commissioners.

*Subsequent Proceedings.*—Emigrants must reach the port of embarkation at their own expense. They will not be allowed to embark if disabled or in ill-health. Before an embarkation is issued a deposit of 1*l.* must be paid for every person above 14, and 10*s.* for every child above 1 and under 14 years old. The following payments are also required:—

|                                                                                                                       | Between the Ages of |          |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                       | 14 & 40.            | 40 & 50. | 50 & above. |
|                                                                                                                       | £.                  | £.       | £.          |
| From agricultural labourers, shepherds, herds-<br>men, and female domestic servants }                                 | Nil.                | 4        | 9           |
| From blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpen-<br>ters, masons, coopers, wheelwrights,<br>millwrights, and bakers . . . . . } | 3                   | 6        | 9           |
| From all other persons of the labouring<br>class . . . . . }                                                          | 5                   | 7        | 9           |

Two children, that is, persons under 14 years of age, of persons assisted to emigrate will be conveyed free: 5*l.* will be required for each child in excess of that number.

Provisions, medical attendance, cooking utensils, new mattresses, bolsters, blankets, counterpanes, canvas bags for linen, knives and forks, spoons, metal plates and mugs, will be provided by the Commissioners, and may be kept by the emigrants if they behave well on the voyage. Emigrants must provide their own clothing, sheets, towels, and soap, and also tools of their trade, if possible.

**TERMS** on which money paid in advance may be applied in sending out **EMIGRANTS TO SETTLE ON SMALL FARMS.\***

1. The money must be deposited to the credit of the Commissioners at the Bank of England, in sums not less than 1000*l.* each. (Since increased to 5,000*l.*, see ).

2. For each such deposit a certificate will be issued by the Commissioners, which will be considered to represent the same amount of money in any purchase of Government land at Natal.

3. The land must be purchased in conformity with all such rules, and after being exposed to sale at such upset price, as may be in force in the colony at the time when it shall be actually bought.

4. The depositor is to undertake the conveyance to Natal of agricultural labourers, mechanics, skilled labourers, or small farmers accustomed to some manual labour, and intending to work for their subsistence.

5. He is to engage to furnish them with a steerage passage, and to grant them, after arrival, 20 acres of land in fee for each adult, and five acres for each child, with a right of choice out of at least double that quantity, in consideration of a payment by the emigrants of not more than 10*l.* for each adult, computed according to the Passengers' Act.

6. If any persons, who belong to the foregoing classes, and for whom, therefore, a drawback can be claimed of the Government in the manner to be presently stated (see Clause 9), should proceed as intermediate passengers, there must be sufficient evidence that they had enjoyed an option of proceeding in the steerage for the maximum charge above mentioned, and that they had preferred paying the difference of price for the superior kind of accommodation.

7. The lists of emigrants are to be submitted to the Emigration Commissioners for revision and approval, and the emigrants themselves to be inspected by an officer of that Board previous to sailing.

8. Whenever a vessel is engaged for conveying emigrants to Natal

\* Memorandum dated Colonial Office, April 16, 1849.

under this arrangement, the fact must be reported to the Board of Emigration, in order that the requisite survey of her may be made by the emigration officer at the port from which she is to sail. If sent from a port at which no such officer is stationed, the expense of sending one to make the survey must devolve on the depositor who is despatching the emigrants; but there are emigration officers at all the principal ports of the kingdom.

9. For each approved emigrant (two children between one and fourteen years being counted as one emigrant), who may be introduced into the colony, there will be returned to the depositor out of the amount paid by him to the credit of the Emigration Commissioners, the sum of 10*l.* on receipt from the colony, of a certificate that such emigrant had been safely landed, and appeared to have been properly treated on the voyage; and, further, had been duly put in possession of the promised quantity of land.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE LAND QUESTION. SURVEY AND SALE. OUR SYSTEM IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

THERE is still another case bearing very strongly on the establishment of the new colony, which therefore requires to be stated here.

Her Majesty's Government being anxious to encourage the settlement in Van Diemen's Land of small capitalists and persons capable of employing labour, the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners have been directed to make known the following arrangements which Her Majesty's Government have sanctioned for that purpose:—

I. The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners will be ready to receive deposits from persons desirous of emigrating to and settling in Van Diemen's Land, in sums of not less than 200*l.*, to be paid to the credit of the Bank of England, or any of its branches; and the Commissioners will grant in exchange for such deposit a "remission certificate" for a sum equal to double the amount of the deposit, which certificate will be available as so much cash in the purchase of Government land in the colony, if presented at the proper office within 18 months of its date.

II. Parties making such deposits will further be entitled to free passages (intermediate or steerage), to Hobart Town, for themselves, their families and servants, provided that the whole cost of such passage shall not exceed two-thirds the amount of the deposit. Depositors desirous of being furnished with cabin, instead of intermediate passages, may take advantage of this condition by paying the difference of expense out of their own funds.

III. Depositors must, at the time of making the deposit, obtain from the Bank of England, or the branch in which the deposit is made, a receipt to be produced to the Commissioners as the voucher of the payment.

IV. Depositors when applying for their "remission certificates" must, at the same time, submit to the Commissioners the name and description of the persons nominated for free passages, otherwise the privilege will be forfeited, and persons so nominated will nevertheless be subject to the approval of the Commissioners. Any loss which they may experience by the neglect or default of the depositor, or his nominees, either to come forward at the

proper time for embarkation, or in any other respect, must be borne by the depositor, and any expense so incurred will be defrayed out of the sum which he may be entitled to have spent in emigration.

V. The object of the above regulations being to encourage the permanent settlement in Van Diemen's Land of a class of small capitalists, and it being necessary to prevent persons who have no intention of settling there from taking advantage of them, depositors who shall proceed to Van Diemen's Land under these regulations, will not, for the space of two years, from making use of their "remission ticket," receive a Crown grant for any land purchased by such certificates, but will, in the mean time, receive a "location ticket." At the expiration of two years, the depositor, on showing to the satisfaction of the Governor that he is *bonâ fide* a resident settler in the colony, and has so resided continuously since obtaining his "location ticket," will be entitled to a Crown grant in exchange for it. If, however, application should not be made for the exchange of the "location ticket" within 12 months from the expiration of the two years for which it is granted, it will be considered to have lapsed, and the land will be open to sale or grant.

VI. In the event, however, of the purchase of land, which would properly be included in a single grant, partly by means of a "remission certificate," and partly in cash, the Lieutenant-Governor will be authorized, by not less than half of the nominal value of the "remission certificate," and provided also he be satisfied of the good faith of the transaction, to issue a grant for the whole at the expiration of one year from the date of purchase.

It will be seen that the above regulations are intended to apply only to persons having capital enough to enter on the cultivation of a tolerably large property. To such parties Van Diemen's Land, from its healthy climate, productive soil, and cheap labour, offers every prospect of success. But persons not possessed of capital, nor accustomed to agricultural or pastoral pursuits, should, for their own sakes, abstain from taking advantage of arrangements which are not designed for them, and for which they are not suited. Otherwise, they can scarcely fail to meet with disappointment and pecuniary loss.

By Order of the Board,  
(Signed) S. WALCOTT.

*Colonial Land and Emigration Office,  
April 30, 1851.*

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE LAND QUESTION. VAN DIEMEN'S LAND CONTINUED. THE CONVICT SYSTEM EXAMINED.

SIR WILLIAM DENISON, the Governor of Van Diemen's Land, in advocating the natural advantages of the colony, endeavours to remove the objections so vehemently expressed by colonists themselves, against the influence of convicted felons, when employed as servants, during their term of sentence, amongst the population at large. The general distribution of persons convicted of crime, in a large ratio, amongst a free population, must always be deemed an evil

by right-minded persons, especially by those who have families. This objection counterbalances many advantages; and thus far stands in the way of Van Diemen's Land being selected for a home by the middle classes. It is not intended to demur here to the transportation of convicts to our colonies, under a proper system, any more than one would object to their being collected and employed, under strict guard, on public works in the United Kingdom. But precisely as convicts are managed at home, should they be managed in a colony; except, that they may be employed, under strict prevention from public intercourse, in making roads, and other public works, on which they are not usually employed in the mother country, owing to its superabundant labour. Under no circumstances whatever, should convicts, under sentence, be permitted to mingle with society. It appears unjust to allow criminals, intended to be severely punished, to have the privilege of being engaged in private service, as under the ticket-of-leave or assignment system, when hundreds of persons, bearing good characters in the mother country, would gladly consent to be shipped off at public expense, with no better prospect for a limited period. It must be quite clear, that compulsory labour, under effective restriction from public intercourse, must be highly desirable for the accomplishment of many public necessities, where honest industry enjoys its full reward.\*

The islands at the mouth of the Albert River present remarkable facilities for maintaining a convict establishment, apart from any detrimental influence on the people at large, or intercourse of any kind, beyond themselves and their keepers.

At the risk of much public odium, this opinion, in favour of a perfectly-restricted convict establishment, in the new colony, is put forth. No one ever hears of the inhabitants of Woolwich or Devonport complaining that their morality is exposed to injury by the convict establishments there. But the result which has caused such just excitement in the Australian colonies against transportation, would be equally felt at Woolwich or Devonport, if convicts were allowed to

\* None of the petitions against the *present* Convict system, are adverse to forced labour under unqualified restriction to public works, as in England.

be hired out as labourers and servants amongst the population of those towns and the surrounding country.

A colony, especially a young colony, should be very glad to have a convict establishment, and to meet its expenses, in some measure ; if subjected to its audit or control in regard to local outlay and the occupations of the prisoners.

Mr. Martin observes,\* after quoting the statement of a Committee of the House of Commons on Transportation:—  
 “It is evident from the foregoing statement, that without reference to the moral part of the question of transportation, it is the cheapest mode of disposing of our criminals. Including all the heavy charges, from 1787 to the close of the war in 1815, it appears that 100,000 convicts have cost less than 8,000,000*l.*, or 80*l.* each. Taking the average period of sentence at ten years for each prisoner, this shows a charge of about 8*l.* a year for each convict ; and during 1836, it was only 6*l.* 16*s.* Under the most economical management, a convict costs, in the Millbank Penitentiary, England, all things included, 25*l.* a-year ; four times what he would cost the State, if a proper system of penal colonization were carried into effect ; and the details in this volume prove the great amount of moral reformation which has taken place in New South Wales. The retention of 5,000 convicts a-year, in the United Kingdom, would soon prove a heavy charge on the Home Exchequer ; and when the period of their imprisonment is fulfilled, what is to become of them? The most humane and Christian policy is, the foundation of settlements like that of New South Wales.”

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## CHAPTER XV.

### THE LAND QUESTION. EXAMINATION OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTERS. THE REASONABLE PRICE.

FOUR very important examples have been brought under notice in the previous chapters. They embody some reference to the past, and a precise account of present operations, in Australia, the United States, South Africa, and Van Diemen's Land.

\* Martin's "Australia," p. 564.

A particular examination of the colonizing disasters of joint stock proprietaries in South Australia, New Zealand, and Vancouver's Island, has been purposely omitted; as it could serve no other end than to warn the public against trusting to such machinery—a work that, of all others, demands all the freshness, freedom, and vigour, of individual enterprise. Enough has been said incidentally, in the progress of this exposition, to secure indemnity against any accusation which might have been raised, if this opportunity had been allowed to pass, without animadverting on those injurious examples.

Western Australia presents another variety of bad colonizing, in the terrible results arising, on its first settlement and early progress, from “absence of needful preparation, as well as careful supervision, necessary to its successful working.” There was reckless improvidence with regard to surveys; and even shelter was wanting, both for the ships on their arrival, and for the passengers, live stock, and material, when got ashore. It is now rising, as well as 20s. an acre will allow it. No one, who has proceeded through this enquiry, can reasonably avoid the conclusion, that the minimum price of land should not exceed a sum equivalent to the expenses of acquisition by the State; of survey, sale, and proportionate revenue; embracing also, in the calculation, lands set apart for public uses.

When the cost of surveying, charged to the purchaser of a small lot in Natal, is compared with that incurred by the Government in the United States, the conclusion is obviously in favour of the latter system; at all events, in regard to public, if not to certain private interests. Indeed, without further argument, it may be safely determined at once, that the duty of surveying pertains to the Government; and its cost should be refunded in the price put on the land, and should not be made a separate charge on the purchaser. Referring back to the United States' system, it will be seen that the cost to Government, of acquiring title, &c., is, say,  $7\frac{1}{2}d.$  English sterling;—of survey,  $1d.$ ;—of selling and managing,  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ ;—in all, less than  $11d.$ ; while it receives, say,  $5s. 3d.$  per acre; or a *net profit* on each acre sold, of  $4s. 4d.$  per acre. From 1833 to 1850, the United States has received 19,881,883*l.* for land sold. In 1850 it

received 493,943*l.* It had surveyed, up to September, 1850, 312,710,994 acres; and 1,295,269,526 still remain to be surveyed and appropriated. See the American Almanack, 1853; and De Bow's Industrial Resources, 1852.

The amount received for the sales of public lands, in the British Colonies, by the British Government, is very inconsiderable in comparison with the receipts of the United States. It is also difficult to get at the gross amount satisfactorily, of that branch of revenue; and the comparison would be in no way favourable to our management. The New Zealand Company,—the Hudson's Bay Company,—the South Australian Company,—the Canterbury Association,—the Canada Company,—and others, a little less greedily gorged with the public lands might, perhaps, make the amount more suitable to the immense, but badly-managed, estate of the British nation, if they could be compelled to render a true account. In New South Wales, the entire receipts from land in 1849, were 151,303*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*; in Van Diemen's Land, 2,112*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* In South Australia the sales in 1849, amounted to 63,431*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.*

The cost of surveying in South Australia in 1849, is reckoned at 12½*d.* per acre; which result perfectly sustains the United States' account.

This confirmation permits a consideration of the price at which the land in the new colony should be sold. Is it possible, after the overwhelming evidence that has been adduced, any longer to act upon a delusive theory, which has not even answered the selfish intentions of its promoters, much less the interests of the public. In the new colony there must be no monopoly price. More than 5*s.* an acre as the upset price is unreasonable in the face of the examples in the United States, the Cape of Good Hope, and Natal, and virtually the 20*s.* minimum is abandoned in Van Diemen's Land. The great distance of the new colony, in comparison with the United States, is counterbalanced, in some measure, by its saleable lands being in every direction near the sea-board, instead of many hundreds of miles in the interior, as in the American instance.

Even at the ordinary price of 5*s.* an acre, the Governor ought to be authorized to dispose of otherwise unsaleable



land at what it will fetch, if he deem it to be advisable. Original sales would be made by authority and under title from the British Government; and no transfer should be valid without registration. Reserves of land for Public Education, under local administration, are sufficient to meet every desire that even a Canterbury associate could expect to fulfil by the enormous price of 3*l.* per acre.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

### SYSTEMATIC SURVEYING OF PUBLIC LANDS.

THE best method in practice for the survey of waste public lands, and the allotment thereof for sale and occupation, is that of the United States. None of our colonies can boast of a general survey like that of many States in the American Union.

Some improvements, however, will be suggested in the following plan. It is proposed that the survey should be trigonometrical, exhibiting the features of the country with as much accuracy as circumstances will permit.

The coast line should be delineated after the pattern of our Admiralty Charts, which stand pre-eminent.

The rivers and tributaries: their course, depth, height of banks, flood-line, altitude and slope, cascades, tidal extent, juncture of salt and fresh water, velocity, navigable extent, fords and obstructions.

Lakes, lagoons or swamps, high and low-level margins, altitude, depth.

Delineation of surface, undulations, hills, mountains, cliffs, pits, and altitudes.

Timber, scrub, natural pasture, barren ground.

Geological features, soil, subsoil, rocks.

The Trigonometrical Survey of England and Wales is mapped without reference to a projection, and the latitude and longitude is not indicated on the published maps.

Recent inquiries have led to the construction of a conical projection on a uniform plan for the whole sphere; on a formula which gives a closer approximation to the spherical

area, than had been hitherto attained. Take, for example, a portion of the zone between  $50^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  latitude, including  $12^{\circ}$  long.

The spherical area is 327,602·4 English miles.

The new conical area is 327,569·4 „

Difference only  $33\cdot0 = \frac{1}{327}$

This difference being also distributed with greater equality than in the best projections previously employed, presents no difficulty of any moment, in the adaptation of a trigonometrical survey to it.

A scale of one inch to the geographical mile is sufficient for the purpose of a general map, and will distinguish the boundaries of the smallest portion of a section to be sold separately.

In a general map, and in the measurement and subdivision of large areas, it seems very desirable to abide by that unit and method which is invariably adopted in dealing with Imperial areas, or with the world as a whole. The geographical mile, or sixtieth part of a degree, is invariably used in maritime surveys; and if land surveys be regarded apart from the prejudices caused by starting from a narrow, instead of a broad point of view, the advantage of assimilating them to the maritime and geographical unit, will be evident. The map having been constructed on a regular projection, it is proposed that the boundaries of the allotments should be formed by the intersection of meridional and parallel lines, at intervals of six minutes. These should be further subdivided by the intersection of lines of latitude and longitude, at intervals of one minute. The 16th and 32nd sections, allotted to public education, are found ample for that purpose in the United States, and a similar provision is hereafter proposed.

Each section may be divided into 2, 3, 4, 6, or 12 parts. The acreage of one township on each parallel being ascertained, that of all the others on the same parallel is also given.

The adoption of the geographical unit instead of the statute mile, renders the process conformable to the common language of geodetical operations, whether applied on a large scale, embracing a state, or an empire, or the whole

world, or to the measurement and identification of the smallest site.

By making the east and west boundaries meridional and the north and south boundaries parallel to the equator it is impossible that any dispute can arise as to the position of boundary stones; for the celestial land-mark is beyond the power of any evil intent or accidental removal. If the configuration of the ground, access to water, roads, or other desiderata, render the contents of a section incomplete in a buyer's opinion, then such aliquot part of the adjacent section may be obtained as will render the property pleasing. After weighing well the objections to the sectional system here put forth, and sustained by the successful practice of the United States, and the opinion of our eminent authorities, Colonel Dawson and Mr. Buell Williams, it does appear that no substantial reason can be adduced against it, but many may be adduced in its favour.

The substitution of the geographical mile for the statistical mile appears to be subject to no well-ground objection whatever; while in rendering local surveying conformable to the general practice of geographical science, it seems to be a step towards that simplicity, uniformity, and systematic combination of parts with the whole, which is the essence of true method. It will be observed by the annexed outline, or index to the arrangement of the maps of the new province for publication, that the sheets may be issued simply with the projection, until they are filled up; in which shape private contributions to the cartography of the country may be greatly facilitated and encouraged.

The reader is referred for details to an able work on Colonial Surveying, by Mr. Felix Wakefield; also to the reports of Colonel Dawson, and especially to some admirable letters on National Surveys, which have recently appeared in 'The Glasgow Sentinel.' Our object in the present work is, however, rather to deal with fundamental bases, than with operative minutiae. The arrangements for the Land Office; the form of title; and the registration of the original purchase, and of subsequent transfers, are also matters for detailed administration, which do not require to be dealt with here.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

## THE CLIMATE.—THE FACTS AND THE THEORY EXAMINED.

THE influence of climate is of so much importance, in regard to population—to industrial pursuits generally—especially to agriculture and the breeding of animals,—that it has appeared necessary to enlarge on the remarkable climatological evidence which has been already quoted in the second chapter.

Captain Stokes arrived in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and sighted the eastern shore on July 1st, 1841. He continued there till August 13th,—and it is to that period of the year that his observations refer. The apparent position of the sun in the ecliptic is then in the northern tropic, from which he begins to recede on June 21st; and reaches the parallel of  $20^{\circ}$  north latitude on July 22nd. On August 13th, when Captain Stokes left Port Flinders, the sun had passed the parallel of  $15^{\circ}$  north latitude. July and August may therefore be considered as the coldest months of the year in Port Flinders; the decrement of heat being greatest after the sun has passed the winter solstice.

Captain Flinders entered the gulf from Torres Straits, on November 4th, 1802. He passed along the gulf close to the coast, and finding excellent anchorage, water, &c., in Port Flinders, he caused his ship to be careened, repaired, and watered there, while the crew were enabled to indulge in abundant feasts of turtle, caught in the neighbourhood. He remained there from November 16th to December 1st, and called his anchoring-ground Investigator Road, after the name of his ship. Flinders states, "The advantages to be obtained by a ship, are briefly these:—shelter against all winds in Investigator's Road, wood for fuel, fresh water, and a tolerable abundance of fish and turtle.

It may be repeated that the subsequent survey of Captain Stokes has proved this road to be a good port, and the

anticipations of future settlement entertained by both those explorers being about to be realized, the name is now proposed to be changed to Port Flinders, after its admirable discoverer. Port Phillip, in the southern province of Victoria, derived its name from Captain Phillip, who was its explorer, and the name thus bears an analogy not unsuitable to their relative positions.

After leaving this port and the adjacent Wellesley Islands, Flinders pursued his course along the coast and amongst the numerous islands which occur on the southern and western sides of the gulf, until he reached the English Company's Islands, on the western extremity of this great interior sea, the knowledge of which had remained, till then, quite obscure and uncertain. He left these islands and the gulf, altogether, on March 6th, 1803, having entered it on the 4th of the previous November.

Between these dates the apparent course of the sun on the ecliptic is over the parallels of latitude, from  $16^{\circ}$  south latitude to the tropic of Capricorn in  $23^{\circ} 28'$  south latitude. The sun is vertical over the tropic of Capricorn on December 22nd. By March 6th he has returned from the tropic, and passed the parallel of  $6^{\circ}$  south latitude. The period between November and March must, therefore, be the hottest months of the year in the Gulf of Carpentaria. In December, especially, when Flinders was passing along the southern shores, the sun was in the tropic of Capricorn. He was there, consequently, during the summer solstice (or sun-stay), the period of greatest heat in those latitudes, and in the southern hemisphere generally.

Flinders states, that "at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the north-west monsoon began to blow at the end of November. It is thought to be a general rule that a monsoon blowing directly from the sea, produces rain; and from off the land, fine weather, with sea and land breezes. This I found exemplified on the west coast of Carpentaria, where the rainy north-west monsoon which then came off the land, brought fine weather; the rain came with eastern winds, which set in occasionally, and blew strong for two or three days together."

From the time of first arriving to that of quitting Sweers' Island (or Port Flinders, from November 16 to

December 1), the range of the thermometer on board ship, was between  $81^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$ , and on shore it might be 5' to 10' higher in day-time: the weather was consequently warm; but being alleviated by almost constant breezes, either from sea or land, it was seldom oppressive.

On the 10th of February following, when Flinders had reached Caledon Bay, on the west coast of Carpentaria Gulf, in latitude  $12^{\circ} 47' S.$ , and when the sun was nearly vertical over that latitude, he states, that "on board ship the range of the thermometer was from  $83^{\circ}$  to  $87^{\circ}$ , nearly as it had been from the first entering the Gulf of Carpentaria; and on shore it was probably  $10^{\circ}$  higher. Since December, when the north-west monsoon began, not many days had passed without rain; and thunder-squalls were frequent."

The difference between the temperature on the land, subject to rains, and land and sea breezes, and that on board ship adjacent to the coast, is considered by Captain Stokes to average about  $7^{\circ}$ .

When Flinders arrived at English Company's Islands, at the mouth of the gulf, in  $12^{\circ}$  south lat., during the beginning of March, when the sun's zenith influence had passed over that locality, and had reached about  $6^{\circ}$  nearer the equinox, he states that "For the last several days the wind has inclined from the eastward, and at this time blew a steady breeze at E. by S., with fine weather, as if the north-west monsoon were passed, and the south-east trade had resumed its course." He concludes his survey of the gulf with this emphatic declaration,—“It was not without much regret that I quitted the coast; both from its numerous harbours, and better soil, and its greater proximity to our Indian possessions having made it become daily more interesting. \* \* The accomplishment of the survey was in fact an object so near to my heart, that could I have foreseen the train of ills that were to follow the decay of the Investigator, and prevent the survey being resumed, and had my existence depended upon the expression of a wish, I do not know that it would have received utterance; but Infinite Wisdom has, in infinite mercy, reserved the knowledge of futurity to itself.” Vol. 2, p. 248.

Leichhardt is the next witness. He travelled from Jimba,



in 27° south lat., passing around the Gulf of Carpentaria, to Port Essington, in about 12° 40' south lat.

He started on October 1st, 1844, and reached the end of his journey in December 1845. He left the parallel of 20° south lat. on April 10th, and, having arrived at the Mitchell river on the eastern side of Carpentaria on June 25th, he passed around the head of the gulf, and reached the Roper river on the western side in about 15° south lat. on October 19th.

His evidence confirms the accounts of Flinders and Captain Stokes. He dwells strongly on the value of the country for grazing; and he says of his own beasts, when they were passing round the gulf, that they were in capital condition. He also states that all along his route from the Darling Downs to the gulf, cattle, driven at easy stages, would fatten on the road.

As to the influence of the climate on himself and his companions, he says—"The state of our health shewed how congenial the climate was to the human constitution, for without comforts, without flour or salt, and miserably clothed, we were yet all in health."—Page 299.

The superior climate of Carpentaria is moreover deducible from the conditions presented by the countries within the same zone of latitude on both sides of the equator, all around the earth. It has also the peculiar advantage of enjoying the refreshing coolness arising from the south-east trade winds during the months from October to April, while their violent action, whenever it arises, is checked by the eastern coast range, before they reach the plains along the gulf. Land and sea breezes, arising from contiguity to the ocean, also prevail. During the warm months, while the sun is near the southern tropic, or from about October to April, the north-west monsoon brings torrents of rain from the Indian Ocean to the north-west coast; but the high lands on the western side of Carpentaria intercept the storms and rains from that quarter, and modify their influence before they descend to refresh and fertilize the great plains to the south of the gulf.

The appearance of the country, as it is described by Captain Stokes and Leichhardt, sustains this character.

Grass is plentiful, and trees are spread along the banks

of the rivers, and in clusters over the country; but the vegetation does not attain that rank luxuriance which accords with the climate of the regions nearer the equator.

The temperature also has been observed to vary between  $51^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$ ; which renders the climate rather like that of the temperate zone than that which is peculiar to the zone within  $10^{\circ}$  on either side of the equator.

For instance, at Singapore, which lies about  $1^{\circ}$  from the equator, the thermometer only varies from  $72^{\circ}$  to  $88^{\circ}$  throughout the year. It is, however, remarkably healthy, although rain falls almost daily; but the atmosphere is serene, and the storms which occasionally desolate the Indian and Chinese Seas are there unknown.

According to this evidence the climate of Carpentaria is more equable than that of either New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia. Its freedom from extremes of heat and cold, together with its protection from the full force of the oceanic winds, and from the humidity which those winds produce, encourages the anticipation that its climate will even be superior to that of New Zealand.

It seems proved that cattle will thrive well; and if the greater extremes of heat in the Southern Colonies be considered, there is a great probability that sheep may also be introduced with success, on the adjacent highlands.

The notions on tropical climate which remain current amongst philosophers and the public at large, are generally prejudicial alike to all the parallels within the broad zone between the tropics, and curiously inconsistent with the facts.

This statement is particularly exemplified in the thermal maps which Berghaus, Dove, and their copyists have produced. In all these examples the equator is recognized as the seat of the normal isotherm of greatest heat; that line or band being diverted northward or southward, as observation has proved the idea to be inconsistent with ascertained facts. In Dove's maps, the great number of observations which he has endeavoured to harmonize, has developed some progress towards a truer theory; but the old notion evidently maintains its sway in the Professor's deductions.

It is admitted that the sun is the paramount source of

atmospheric heat. But his influence on the earth is referred to his apparent path in the ecliptic ; and the real motion of the earth in her path around the sun has been lost sight of, in the consideration of thermal and climatological questions.

This is not surprising when it is recollected that geography is indebted to astronomy for her knowledge of cosmographical movements and relations ; and astronomy being mainly concerned with apparent motions, has not, in her ordinary practice of observation, been called on to observe how insufficient apparent motion is, for the explanation of results arising from actual motion. Now it is clear that whatever influence the sun exerts on the earth must be attributed to the actual and not to the apparent motions.

But the actual motion of the earth around the sun, as described by astronomers, and in the accepted theory of the seasons, is inconsistent with the facts which geography demonstrates ; and the geographer finds himself placed in a similar unenviable position in regard to the doctrines of astronomy, that the geologist has already attained in regard to the interpretations of theology.

The astronomers and climatologists say that the earth moves round the sun in an elliptical orbit, and on a single plane, which is regarded as passing through the centre of the sun and the centre of the earth ; the axis of the earth round which she revolves daily, being at an angle of nearly  $66^{\circ} 32'$  to the plane of her orbit. This doctrine is inconsistent with the fact that the sun is vertical day by day to successive points between the tropics, producing spiral lines on the earth's surface nearly parallel to the equator. That in fact the sun's solstitial motion is in the parallel of  $23^{\circ} 28'$ , nearly, north and south of the equator alternately, at intervals of six months ; and that his equinoctial motion is on the line of the equator nearly, instead of in lines parallel to the ecliptic. It is maintained, therefore, that the earth moves around the sun in a spiral path between two planes, which are respectively coincident with the vertical action of the sun on the two tropics, at his nearest approach to either pole, severally and separately, at intervals of about six months. The interval between the spiral lines of the

sun's vertical action, on each daily revolution of the earth, is about 15' of latitude, subject to variation.

It is also maintained that there are two bands of greatest heat on the earth's surface, arising from the continuous vertical action of the sun at each tropic, for a period of 62 successive days, during which time he is passing from 20° to the tropic in 23° 28', and then back to 20° again. He is vertical less than one-sixth of that time, over a similar extent of latitude in any other part of his apparent course. The result is a band of deserts under each tropic around the earth. The tropic of Cancer traverses the "tierras calientes," or desert regions of Mexico; the Sahara of North Africa, and the Arabian desert; while the desert of Mukran on the *Coast* of Beloochistan, and that of Thurr, eastward of the Indus, are close to it on the north.

The tropic of Capricorn traverses the desert of Atacama on the Pacific, in Bolivia; the desert of El Gran Chaco in La Plata; the desert of Kalihari, between the lake Nyassi and the Orange river in South Africa; and the great desert region of Australia, so well described by Sturt. The tropical region appears, therefore, to be burnt up and desert, with trifling exceptions, arising from local causes, which preponderate over the sun's continuous vertical action.

The equatorial region, or the zone within 10° of the equator, also presents special characteristics of an excessive kind. The temperature is high, and scarcely varies; the rains fall in torrents during several months; vegetation is rank and luxurious; and animal life revels in its most impressive and abundant varieties. The closer juxtaposition of the sun to this culminating portion of the sphere, may partly account for its preponderating influence, in comparison with the zones which will now be brought under notice.

The zones between 10° and 20° on both sides of the equator are equally remarkable, and peculiarly interesting on account of their remarkable fitness for the occupation of man. All around the earth within those latitudes the country abounds with lakes, rivers, and fertility, but the vegetation is not excessive. The climate also partakes of the qualities prevailing in the temperate zones.

In the northern band there is Central America, con-

taining the great *Lakes* of Nicaragua, Managua, Atitlan, Yojoa, Ilopango, Guija, Peten, &c.; the *Rivers* Usumasinta, Tabasquillo, Hondo, Motagua, Ulua, Lempa, Choluteca, and many others. Nothing but good government is required to render that country amazingly productive. The only part which enjoys peaceable administration is Costa Rica, and that state is advancing rapidly. The whole country is well suited for European population, but the Spanish system of colonization has so detrimentally influenced the character of the inhabitants, both European and natives, that life and property are generally not safe enough, and true liberty is restricted.

Passing eastward, the most populous and best watered countries of North Africa are in this band. From Soudan to Abyssinia, there are numerous lakes, rivers, and nations. There are, the great *Lakes* Dembea, Fittreh, Tchad, Debo, Bouro, and many others; the great *Rivers* Senegal, Gambia, Niger, and the numerous tributaries of the Nile. The people are civilized, and commercial enterprise only is required to develop the natural wealth of this important region. The exertions of Mr. Macgregor Laird, and the inquiries of the *German* explorers sent by the *British* Government to Lake Tchad, will doubtless produce prolific results.

In Arabia, the spice countries of Yemen and Hadramaut are within these latitudes.

In India, the Deccan is found there. Eastward, the great rivers, and abundant population and produce of Pegu, Siam, Camboja, and Cochin China, present in a remarkable manner all the advantages of bountiful nature, and the evils of ignorance, superstition, and tyranny.

The fertility and temperate climate of the Philippines complete the circuit of the northern hemisphere.

In the southern hemisphere, similar conditions distinguish these latitudes. In South America, Peru, Bolivia, and the southern and most temperate part of Brazil, are alike distinguished from the deserts to the south, and from the exuberant selvas of the Amazon, and the humid climates of Guyana, the Orinoco, and the Magdalena, adjacent to the equator.

The Lakes Titicaca, Chinchacocha, Ullagas, Gahyba, and Pernagua, and the southern feeders of the Amazon, water this zone in South America.

In South Africa this band is distinguished for lakes and rivers. The great interior sea of Nyassi on the north, and the great Lake N'gami on the south, the great River Zambezi, the feeders of the Congo, and many others, are all within this zone. The overland route, between the commercial entrepôts of the Portuguese, on the east and west coasts, runs along the northern latitude.

Madagascar must not be entirely overlooked. Its commercial importance is only restricted by the horrible superstition and tyranny which enslaves the people.

Bourbon and Mauritius are just under the parallel of  $20^{\circ}$ —and passing over the Indian Ocean, Northern Australia, the New Hebrides, the Fidji Islands, the Samoa Islands, the Society Islands, and the Marquesas, complete the compass of the southern band. In North Australia, within this zone, the number of running rivers is very remarkable, and there is every probability that lakes exist in or contiguous to the highlands on the western and south-eastern sides of Carpentaria Gulf, and the Plains of Promise. Many of these rivers are navigable. A sufficient idea of their importance can only be obtained by consulting Mr. Arrowsmith's *large* map, on two sheets of which this country is delineated. The distinctive features relating to climate within the tropics have thus been generally demonstrated, for the purpose of establishing the analogy which exists between the climate of Carpentaria and that of countries in the same latitudes; and also for the purpose of removing the erroneous impressions which prevail on that subject. The conclusions seem to be highly favourable to Carpentaria, and not uninteresting to the world at large.

Although the real work of colonization brings into play all the results of geographical, geodetical, and social experience, yet in the accumulation of these results in the present instance, it seems needful to avoid entering into those details that may be necessary to substantiate the unrecognized truths which have been brought forward in pursuit of so practical an object.

The reader who desires to know something of the mathematical investigations which have led to the novel suggestions relating to projection, &c., in the chapter on Surveying, and who may be more especially interested in the consideration of the earth's real motion, and the great questions

dependent thereon, will see the propriety of separating such inquiries from the present work. It is therefore intended to appropriate a separate treatise to those subjects.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### FUNDAMENTAL LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS.

It ought not to be expected that men wise enough to become successful colonists, would buy land or settle on it, without being satisfied that the government of the country, and the laws under which its affairs are administered, are adapted to secure them in safe possession, and to provide for the peaceful enjoyment of their rights, liberties, and profits.

This principle has always been admitted; but unfortunately for the happiness of early settlers, the applicability of the Common Law of England to the organization of society, whether in a distant colony, or in an English shire, has only been more or less partially recognized.

Indeed it has seldom happened that the spirit which has stimulated colonizing enterprise, has been sufficiently elevated above motives of bare selfish aggrandisement, to render it desirable to the original promoters of colonial occupation, that the free representative institutions of our forefathers should be equally enjoyed in their integrity by all comers. Enough of hereditary feeling and traditional recollection has always existed, to excite in the course of time, some earnest minds to seek after a practical knowledge of the administrative arrangements, which Englishmen have always maintained with more or less of success, integrity, and affection.

Neither the Norman Conquest, intestine disturbances, the neglect, and still utter disuse of the ancient office, whereby local administration was formerly regulated, nor the abuses which have grown up in consequence, nor even modern centralizing quack remedies,—none of these have succeeded in effacing from English hearts an instinctive sense of the blessings which the laws of our forefathers have bequeathed and secured. Personal duty and personal rights are therein combined. No delegation of the one to

functionaries, nor of the other to any mere abstract or general idea, will satisfy a true Englishman. To do their own business—to regulate their own expenditure—to sustain their own responsibility, and to work through representatives even, only after the basis of action has been decided upon by all concerned, such are the springs of English administration. “I wish we could so perfectly distinguish the Legislative from the Ministerial authority, as once we did; when the HOUSE OF COMMONS had not the power of a COURT LEET to give an oath; which distinction, doubtless, is the most vital part of freedom; as, on the contrary, the confusion of them is an accomplishment of servitude.”—*A Plea for Limited Monarchy*, 1660. The natural indolence of man, and his disposition to confide in others, are the main sources from whence injury to English liberty can arise. These innate conditions were formerly provided against, without interfering with or limiting the freedom of personal and local action. But the wisdom of the Bureau, fostered and developed under despotic governments, has raised up a system in modern times, so seducing to the mere closet legislator—so pretentiously regular and accurate in its machine-like operation, and so free from the troublesome upsetting of preconceived notions that often arises from the awkward incidents of free discussion—that this system has been gradually insinuating its wires and snares into English administration, and is every day becoming more bold, more established, and more dangerous.

Perhaps nowhere has it received a greater check than in the colonies. For in them the enjoyment of plenty has enabled men to engage heartily in their public duties; and they have not failed to seek out and learn their constitutional rights, and to resolve on repairing the negligence, which failed to establish the fundamental laws on the formation of every colonial settlement.

It is in the defective organization of the metropolis, in various forms of local administration, and in certain modern arrangements connected therewith, and in others of a more general scope, that the growing evils of centralization in England are to be watched and exposed.

It is, perhaps, imprudent to unmask a battery before its success is more certain than in the present case; but in digesting the elements of legislation for the establishment



and administration of the new colony, the allurements of the new love have rather revived than effaced the interest in others\* which have long been the object of active association. An expression of that great man, Sir Stamford Raffles, is recorded in his "Life," which may seem like an after-text to these observations. "However easy it may be in the Cabinet to sacrifice the best wishes of the nation, there are spirits and voices engendered by the principles of our Constitution that will not remain quiet under it." That the practical character of this work may not be wanting in an element so essential to good colonizing as the lawful authority for the establishment of administrative institutions, the following draft of an Act has been attempted. Principles, precedents, and practice, have been the guiding stars of its production. Simplicity and logical sequence has been kept in view. In the words of Alfred—"I dare not be so bold as set down for law aught much of my own, for that it is unknown to me what of it would be liked by those who shall live after us."—*Preamble to the Laws.*

### DRAFT OF BILL.

**Preamble.** WHEREAS it hath been satisfactorily shewn that the occupation, settlement, and good government of all that part of the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, situate in the north-eastern part of Australia, will be productive of many benefits, both to the United Kingdom, to the present Australian provinces, and to the adjacent independent countries :—

Be it (declared or enacted),

**Boundaries.** That the territory extending from the parallel of 26° south latitude and the meridian of 133° east longitude, to that portion of the north and north-eastern coast of Australia, which lies northward of the said parallel and eastward of the said meridian, together with all ports, anchorages, roadsteads, fisheries, islands, and other appendages adjacent to the said coasts, be organized into and constitute a Colonial Government, by the name of the PROVINCE OF ALBERT.

**Name of Province.**

**Regulation of Boundaries retained.**

Provided that nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to inhibit (H. B. M. or Parliament) from dividing the said territory into two or more territories, in such manner and at such times as the Legislature of the United Kingdom

\* The Author has had some experience in public duties, as a vestry-man ; overseer ; poor-law guardian ; and commissioner of paving, lighting, and cleansing, in St. Martin-in-the-fields ; also on juries and various public movements in Westminster ; and has been actively connected with geographical science, colonial affairs, and emigration, for some years past.

of Great Britain and Ireland shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said territory to any other province or territory in Australia.

Provided also, that nothing in this Act shall be construed, Rights of Natives. to impair the rights of person or property, if any, now pertaining to the natives in the said territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between H. M.'s Government and such natives; or to affect the authority of H. M.'s Government to make any regulation respecting such natives, their territorial or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would be competent for H. M.'s Government to make, if this act had not been granted.

The executive power and authority in and over the said Appointment of Governor. Province of Albert, shall be vested in a Governor who shall hold his office for            years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, and enabled to relieve him in person, unless sooner removed by H. M.'s Government.

The Governor shall reside within the said territory, shall His Powers and Duties. be Commander-in-Chief of the Militia thereof, and of any of H. M.'s naval or military forces stationed within the province, and shall perform the duties and receive the emoluments arising from the superintendence of native affairs. He may grant pardons and respites for offences against the laws of said territory, and reprieves for offences against the laws of the United Kingdom until the decision of H. B. M. can be made known. He shall commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of said territory, where, by law, such commissions shall be required, and shall watch over and cause the laws to be faithfully executed.

There shall be a Secretary of said territory, who shall Appointment of Provincial Secretary. reside therein and hold his office for            years, unless sooner removed by H. M.'s Government; he shall record and preserve all the laws and proceedings of the local legislature herein after constituted, and all the acts and proceedings of the Governor in his executive department; he shall transmit one copy of the laws and journals of the provincial legislature within thirty days after the end of each session, and one copy of the executive proceedings and official correspondence, annually, on the first day of January in each year to H. M.'s Secretary of State for the Colonies, and two copies of the laws to the President of the House of Lords and to the Speaker of the House of Commons, for the use of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. His Duties.

And in case of the death, removal, resignation, or absence Secretary to Act for Governor in his absence. of the Governor from the territory, the Secretary shall be, and he is hereby authorised and required to execute and perform all the powers and duties of the Governor during such vacancy or absence, or until another Governor shall be duly appointed and qualified to fill such vacancy.

The lands in the said territory shall be surveyed, accord- Lands to be

- surveyed and sold.** ing to a uniform method, and sold under the direction of the Governor, who shall be duly authorised by the Government of the United Kingdom to grant a title; and the said lands shall be sold in regular allotments or equal parts thereof, at an upset price of five shillings sterling per acre, subject to such increase as may arise from public competition or tender.
- Reserves for Education.** Provided, that out of the said lands the twentieth part at convenient intervals shall be, and the same is hereby reserved, for the purpose of being applied to the support of schools and public education in the said province, and in the provinces and territories that hereafter may be erected out of the same.
- Unsold Lands may be let.** Provided also, that the lands in the said territory, so long as they remain unsold, may be occupied at a yearly rental of shillings per 1000 acres; and the occupier shall be entitled to receive a compensation from the purchaser for any improvements that may be allowed by a jury or other duly appointed arbitrators, or upon a writ of "*Ad quod damnum.*"
- Proceeds of Land, Sales, &c.** The proceeds of such land sales and rental shall be paid into the provincial treasury, or to the account thereof, to be applied first towards the administration and public welfare of said province, and the surplus to be applied to promote emigration thereto from the United Kingdom.
- Fisheries and Highways.** Provided also, that all waters within the said territory available for navigation, fisheries, or other public uses, shall be, and the same are hereby reserved, together with sufficient land adjacent thereto for a public highway; and no such waters shall be obstructed by dams or otherwise, so as to prevent fish from passing freely up and down such waters.
- Declaration of Rights.** The inhabitants of the said province shall be entitled to enjoy, all and singular, the rights, privileges, and advantages pertaining to the constitution and laws of England; and shall be subject to all the conditions, restrictions, and prohibitions pertaining thereto, and to the laws in force for the time being in the Province of Albert, so far as the same shall be compatible with the English constitution, and the principles and provision herein contained; subject, nevertheless, to be altered or modified by the legislature of the said province in conformity therewith; but all laws heretofore passed that may relate to the granting or sale of land within the said territory, or to the title thereto, are hereby repealed, and the occupation of the said lands rendered subject to the laws hereby enacted.
- All persons being British subjects, and inhabiting in the province, and every of their children born therein shall have and possess all the liberties, franchises, and immunities within any other of the dominions of the Crown, to all intents and purposes as if they had been abiding and born within the realm of England.
- No person shall be anywise molested, punished, disquieted,

or called in question for any difference of opinion in matters of religion.

Every male inhabitant of the province above the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided in the said province for twelve months and a day, shall be duly enrolled or registered by the local authorities, for contribution to the provincial revenues, and for the performance of public duties according to the ancient laws and customs of England; and every such inhabitant shall be entitled to vote at the election of the representative of the district in which he is enrolled; and shall also be eligible to any office within the said territory, for which he may be duly qualified in other respects. Provided, that the right of suffrage shall be exercised only by the subjects of H. B. M., including all such who may become duly naturalized according to the laws of the United Kingdom in regard to the colonies.

Enrolment  
and Suffrage.

Provided also, that it shall be lawful to impose a sufficient penalty on the local authorities on being convicted of neglecting to enrol or place on the local register all persons duly qualified.

Forasmuch as it is needful for the good government and welfare of the owners and residents within the said province that provision shall be duly made for the administration of the local affairs of each neighbourhood, it is hereby provided that so many of the enrolled inhabitants as can be conveniently assembled together in public meeting, shall form a separate commonalty for the time being, subject to the consent of the Governor or legislature, with power to make rates for all local purposes, and to elect representatives and proper paid officers, for the levying and administration thereof. Each commonalty shall also be empowered to elect annually a justice or justices of the peace, subject to the approval of the Governor, for the trial and correction of petty offences; also bailiffs, constables, assessors, collectors, and other needful officers; and in all things requisite for their health, wealth, and comfort, the commonalty may take such steps as may appear to themselves desirable, but which shall not be inconsistent with the common law and constitution of the realm.

Local Admini-  
stration.

Separate  
Commonal-  
ties.

Representa-  
tive Admini-  
stration.  
Justices of  
Peace.

Provided also, that so many adjacent commonalties as may from time to time be deemed convenient by the provincial legislature, shall be constituted a separate shire, the enrolled inhabitants of which shall be empowered to elect annually a sheriff (subject to the approval of the Governor) who shall perform the customary functions pertaining to that office, also to make rates for the purposes of the shire generally, and to elect representatives and proper officers for the levying and administration thereof.

Shires.

Sheriffs.

Representa-  
tive Admini-  
stration.

Provided also, that each commonalty shall enjoy a due proportion in the property, management, and proceeds of the

School Fund.

common lands set apart for schools and education, and shall elect representatives for the administration thereof.

**The Provincial Legislature.**

The legislative power and authority of the said province shall be vested in a provincial legislature which shall consist of the Governor, a Council, and a House of Commons.

**The Council.**

The Council shall consist of members, being residents, and possessing land within the province, liable to assessment, of a value to be determined, prior to the first session, by the Governor, and subsequently by the provincial legislature.

The number of the members of Council shall be determined by the Governor.

The members shall be appointed by the Governor for a term to be named by the Governor in the first instance, and subsequently during life and the possession of the qualification.

**Provincial House of Commons.**

The House of Commons shall consist of members possessing the suffrage hereinbefore described as the qualification of voters.

Each member shall be elected by and represent one of the several constituencies into which the voters shall be divided, prior to the first election by the Governor, on the basis of the census hereafter mentioned, and subsequently by the legislature on the same basis.

The term of their election shall be named in like manner.

**Governor to assent or veto.**

The Governor shall have power to assent to, or veto the Acts which shall be passed by the Council and House of Representatives, but his decision shall be subject to the revision of H. B. Majesty.

**Census.**

Previously to the first election of the Council and House of Commons, the Governor shall cause a census, or enumeration of the inhabitants and qualified voters of the several commonalties and shires of the said territory, to be taken by such persons, and in such manner, as the Governor shall designate and appoint; and the first election shall be held at such time and places, and be conducted in such manner, both as to the persons who shall superintend such election, and the returns thereof, as the Governor shall appoint and direct; and he shall, at the same time, declare the number of members of the Council to be appointed, and, the number of members of the House of Commons to be elected by each shire, commonalty, or district; and the Governor shall give, at least, sixty days' previous notice of such appointment, and of the time, places, and manner of holding such elections.

**First Elections.**

**Number of Members of Council and House of Commons.**

**Notice of Elections.**

The persons duly qualified, and having the highest number of legal votes shall be members of the House of Commons, and shall be declared by the Governor to be duly elected members of the said house; provided, that in case two or more persons voted for shall have an equal number of votes, and in case a vacancy shall otherwise occur in either branch of the legislature, the Governor shall order a new election.

**Vacancies.**

The legislature of the Province of Albert, thus elected members of the provincial Council and House of Commons, shall hold its first session at such place, and on such a day, within ninety days after such elections, as the Governor shall appoint; but thereafter, the time, place, and manner of holding and conducting all elections by the people, and the appointment of the representation in the several shires, commonalties, or districts to the House of Commons, according to the number of qualified voters, shall be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the commencement of the regular session of the legislature. Provided that the Governor may prorogue or dissolve the legislature whenever he may consider it necessary so to do. At the said first session, or as soon thereafter as shall be deemed expedient, the legislature shall proceed to locate and establish the seat of government of said province, at such place as may be deemed eligible; which place, however, shall thereafter be subject to be changed by the legislature.

First Meeting of Legislature.

Governor may Prorogue or Dissolve.

Seat of Government

A chief clerk, one assistant clerk, a sergeant-at-arms, and doorkeeper may be chosen for each house, but no other officers shall be payable by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Officers of Legislature.

6. The legislative power of the province shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of England; but no law shall be passed interfering with the primary disposal of the soil; no tax shall be imposed upon the property of the United Kingdom; nor shall lands, or other property of non-residents be taxed higher than the lands and other properties of residents. All the laws passed by the provincial legislature shall be submitted to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and if disapproved, shall be null and of no effect.

Power of Legislature.

Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to give power to incorporate a Bank, or any institution with banking powers, or to borrow money in the name of the province, or to pledge the faith of the people of the same for any loan whatever, either directly or indirectly. No charter granting any privilege of making, issuing, or putting into circulation any notes or bills in the likeness of bank notes, or any bonds, scrip, drafts, bills of exchange, or obligations, or granting any other banking powers or privileges, shall be passed by the provincial legislature; nor shall the establishment of any branch or agency of any such corporation, derived from other authority, be allowed in said territory; nor shall the said provincial legislature authorise the issue of any obligation, scrip, or evidence of debt by said territory in any mode or manner whatever, except certificates for services to said territory; and all such laws, or any law or laws inconsistent with the provisions herein contained shall be null and void.

Banking Powers withheld.

Taxes to be equal.

All taxes shall be equal and uniform, and no distinction shall be made in the assessments between different kinds of property, but the assessments shall be according to the value thereof. To avoid improper influences which may result from intermixing in one and the same act, such things as have no proper relation to each other, every law shall embrace but one object, and that shall be expressed in the title.

Each act to have only one object to be expressed in title.

Appointment of Local Officers.

7. And be it further declared, That all commonalty, district, and shire officers, not herein otherwise provided for, shall be appointed, or elected, in such manner as shall be provided for by the legislature of the Province of Albert, in accordance with the common law and custom of England.

On Members of Legislature holding office.

8. And be it further declared, That no member of the legislature shall hold, or be appointed to any office which shall have been created, or the salary or emoluments of which shall have been increased while he was a member, or during the term for which he was elected, and for one year after the expiration of such term; but this restriction shall not be applicable to members of the first legislature.

Judicial power.

Supreme Court.

9. The judicial power of said territory shall be vested in a supreme court, circuit courts, probate court, and in Justices of the Peace. The supreme court shall consist of a Chief Justice, and such number of associate justices as may hereafter be required, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, and shall hold a term at the seat of government of said territory annually, and they shall hold their offices during the period of        years, and until their successors be appointed and qualified. The said province shall be divided into circuits, whenever it may become necessary. And a court

Circuit Courts.

Limited Jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace.

shall be held in each of said circuits, by one of the justices of the supreme court, in such times and places as may be prescribed by law. Provided, That justices of the peace shall not have jurisdiction of any case in which the title to land shall, in anywise, come in question, or where the debt or damages claimed shall exceed twenty pounds; and the said supreme and circuit courts, respectively, shall possess chancery as well as common law jurisdiction, including admiralty and maritime cases. Writs of error, bills of exception, and appeals, shall be allowed in all cases from the final decisions of said circuit courts to the supreme court under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; but

Appeals to Supreme Court.

Appeals from Supreme Court to Courts of United Kingdom.

in no case removed to the supreme court shall trial by jury be allowed in said court. Writs of error, and appeals from the final decisions of said supreme court shall be allowed, and may be taken to the superior jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, in the same manner, and under the same regulations, as from the courts of the United Kingdom, where the value of the property, or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath, or affirmation, of either party, or other competent witness, shall exceed five hundred pounds;

Limited to not less than £500.

and in all cases where the constitution of the United Kingdom, or Act of Parliament, or a Treaty of the United Kingdom is brought in question, each of the said courts shall have and exercise the same jurisdiction in all cases arising under the constitution and laws of the United Kingdom, and the laws of the said province as is vested in the circuit courts of the United Kingdom.

The laws, penalties, forfeitures, and punishments to be enforced by the courts provided by this Act shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United Kingdom. Until otherwise provided by law, the Governor may define the judicial districts and assign the judges who may be appointed for said province to the several districts, and also appoint the times and places for holding courts in the several shires and commonalties in each of said judicial districts by proclamation to be issued by him; but the legislature at the first or any subsequent session may organize, alter, or modify such judicial districts, and assign the judges, and alter the times and places of holding courts, according as it may be deemed proper and convenient.

Penalties restricted.

Judicial Districts.

Each circuit court, or the judge thereof, shall appoint its clerk, who shall also be the Registrar in Chancery, and shall keep his office in the principal place where the court may be held.

Clerk of Circuit Court.

The supreme court, or the justices thereof, shall appoint its own clerk, and every clerk shall hold his office at the pleasure of the court for which he shall have been appointed.

Clerk of Supreme Court.

The said clerks shall receive in all such cases the fees to be provided by law for such services.

Fees of Clerks.

10. There shall be appointed an attorney for said province who shall continue in office for        years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by H. M.'s Government, and who shall receive the fees and salary hereafter provided by law for the attorney of the United Kingdom in said province.

Provincial Attorney.

There shall be also a Marshal for the said territory appointed, who shall hold his office for        years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by Her Majesty, and who shall execute all processes issuing from the said courts when exercising their jurisdiction as circuit and district courts of the United Kingdom: he shall perform the duties, be subject to the regulations and penalties, and be entitled to the fees to be provided by law, and shall in addition be paid        pounds annually as a compensation for extra services.

Provincial Marshal.

11. And be it further enacted, That the Governor, Secretary, Chief Justice, and Associate Justices, Attorney, and Marshal shall be nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of Parliament, appointed by Her Majesty.

Governor, Secretary, Judges, Attorney, and Marshal, to be appointed by Crown.

The Governor and Secretary, to be appointed as aforesaid, Installation.



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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oath to be Certified.       | <p>shall, before they act as such, respectively, take an oath or affirmation, before one of the judges or some justice of the peace, in the limits of the said province, duly authorised to administer oaths and affirmations by law, or before the Lord Chancellor, or some judge of the supreme court of the United Kingdom, to support the English Constitution, and faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices; which said oaths, when so taken, shall be certified by the officer by whom the same shall have been taken, and such certificates shall be received and recorded by the said secretary among the executive proceedings; and the chief justice and associate justices, and all other civil officers in said territory, before they act as such, shall take a like oath before the said Governor or Secretary, or some judge or justice of the peace of the territory who may be duly commissioned and qualified, which said oath or affirmation shall be certified and transmitted by the officer taking the same to the Secretary, to be by him recorded as aforesaid; and, afterwards, the like oath or affirmation shall be taken, certified, and recorded in such manner and form as may be prescribed by law.</p> |
| Secretary to record Oath.   | <p>The Governor shall receive an annual salary of £., as Governor and Superintendent of the Aborigines.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Salaries of Crown Officers. | <p>The Chief Justice and associate justices shall each receive an annual salary of £.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Governor.                   | <p>The Provincial Secretary shall receive an annual salary of £.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Justices.                   | <p>The Provincial Attorney shall receive an annual salary of £., and the fees provided by law.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Secretary.                  | <p>The Provincial Marshal shall receive an annual salary of £., and the fees provided by law.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Attorney.                   | <p>The Chief Clerk of the Legislature shall receive 1<i>l</i>. per day, and the other said officers 12<i>s</i>. per day during the session.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Marshal.                    | <p>The sum of £. shall be appropriated to be expended under the direction of H. M's. Secretary of State for the Colonies, in payment of services rendered in the formation of the colony, and for the satisfaction of the Aborigines.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Officers of Legislature.    | <p>There shall be appropriated annually the sum of £. to be expended by the Governor, to defray contingent expenses, including the salary of a clerk of the executive department. There shall also be appropriated annually a sufficient sum, to be expended by the provincial secretary, upon an estimate to be made by H. M's. Secretary of State for the Colonies, to defray the expenses of the Legislature, the printing of the laws, and other incidental expenses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Disbursements.              | <p>The sum of £. out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, may be applied by the Governor to the erection of suitable buildings at the seat of Government, and a further sum of £. may be applied by the Governor under similar conditions as aforesaid, to the purchase of a library to be kept at the seat of Government, for the use of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Foundation and Natives.     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Governor's Contingencies.   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Legislative Expenses.       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Printing, &c.               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Public Buildings.           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Public Library.             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

the Governor, legislature, judges, secretary, attorney, and marshal of said territory, and such other persons as shall be prescribed by law.

The sum of £. out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, may be expended by the Governor, under the direction of the Lighthouses and Buoya. for the construction of lighthouses, and for the construction and anchorage of buoys to indicate the channels of the Albert River, and the approaches to Port Flinders, the said lighthouses and buoys always to be placed under the direction of the Governor, with such assistance as may be necessary.

A sum of £. may also be applied in like manner, under direction of the Governor, to the purchase of instruments for the survey of the province, and for the purposes of an observatory.

The Governor and Secretary shall in the disbursement of all moneys intrusted to them, be governed solely by the instructions of H. M's. Secretary of State for the Colonies, and shall annually account to the said Secretary for the manner in which the said money shall have been expended; and no expenditure to be paid out of money appropriated by the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be made by the provincial legislature for objects not specially authorized by Acts of Parliament making the appropriation, nor beyond the sums thus appropriated for such objects. Disbursements of Governor and Secretary.

All officers to be appointed by Her Majesty for the Province of Albert, who, by virtue of any law now existing, or which may be enacted, are required to give security for moneys that may be entrusted to them for disbursement, shall give such security, at such time and place, and in such manner as the Lords of the Treasury may prescribe. Securities.

Whereas abundant employment may be expected to arise in the execution of public works in the said province, which could not be provided for by the labour of a free population, enjoying the unbounded resources of a new colony; and whereas much benefit to the said province may be expected from the employment of the forced labour of prisoners from the United Kingdom thereon, and facilities for obtaining a honest livelihood, be presented to the prisoners themselves on expiration of sentence, to the advantage of all concerned; it shall be lawful for the Government of the United Kingdom, to place such prisoners in charge of the Governor of the said province, to be dealt with agreeably to his judgment, and with the consent of the legislature of the province. Convict establishment.

All ports, harbours, shores, and waters of the mainland and islands of the Province of Albert aforesaid, shall constitute a collection district, to be called the District of Albert. Collector of Customs.

A port of entry shall be established at Port Flinders, including the Albert River, and a collector of customs shall be appointed by Her Majesty to reside at such port of entry; Port Flinders a Port of Entry.

Ports of Delivery. and the Governor is hereby authorised, with the consent of Her Majesty's Government, to establish such ports of delivery in the district hereby created, as may be deemed expedient, and may hereafter appoint the proper officers to reside thereat.

Surveyors of Customs. The collector of said district shall be allowed £. per annum, and the fees allowed by law. The salary of any surveyor, appointed in pursuance of this authority, shall not exceed £. per annum, including in the said sum the fees allowed by law.

Port Flinders a Free Port. Port Flinders shall be, and continue, a free port, open alike to all comers, subject only to such laws and regulations as may be needful for the management and control thereof.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### BANKING AND CURRENCY.

The importance of preparation in regard to Banking, is manifest from the dependence of commercial operations on the facilities it affords. Its influence on public credit, and on the welfare of all classes, collectively and individually, renders the subject one of general interest.

For the purpose of facilitating the consideration of this question with regard to the new colony, the following statements are quoted from the great work of Mr. Montgomery Martin, which, to every one concerned in Australia, is quite invaluable.

**BANKING.—*Monetary System.***—Previous to 1817, the circulating medium of the colony consisted principally of the private notes of merchants, traders, shopkeepers, and publicans, the amount being sometimes so low as sixpence. To remedy the evils attendant on such a state of things, the bank of New South Wales was, in 1817, incorporated by a charter under the seal of the colony, with a capital stock of 20,000*l.* sterling, raised in shares of 100*l.* each. The amount of shares subscribed was 12,600*l.*, and notes were issued by the bank for 2*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.*, 10*s.*, 1*l.*, and 5*l.* In the first year of its incorporation, the bills discounted by the bank amounted to only 12,193*l.*; in 1818, they rose to 81,672*l.*; in 1819, to 107,256*l.*; demonstrating the necessity that had existed for such an establishment, and the advantage and convenience that was found to result from it. Interest was not uncommon at the rate of ten per cent. per annum. The dividends declared in 1818 were at the rate of twelve per cent.; for 1819, twenty-one per cent.; for 1820 and 1821, twelve per cent.; and for 1822, fifteen per cent. The charter was granted for seven years, which was, of course, renewed. Each shareholder was responsible for the whole of the proceedings of the bank, thus giving greater stability to the institution, and securing a more careful management of its transactions. The bank seldom advances money upon real securities of any description, nor does it grant cash credits,

or allow any interest upon current accounts, or permanent lodgments of cash. The capital of the bank of New South Wales was originally about 150,000*l.*, divided into 1500 shares of 100*l.*, each, and the amount of capital paid up about 35,000*l.* The affairs of the institution are managed by a president and eleven directors, elected by the shareholders. Every 50*l.* paid up gives a vote. In examining the proceedings of the bank in 1836, I noticed a remarkable fact, namely—that the establishment has never sustained any actual losses through the non-payment of the paper which it has discounted. Whether it has since sustained any losses I am unable to say. Up to the year 1824, the bank discounted at the rate of eight per cent., after which the rate of discount was increased to ten per cent. The Colonial Government pays and receives in specie only; and in consequence of its receipts, from the customs, duties, sales, and leases of land, and other sources of revenue, having considerably exceeded the amount of its disbursements, it has frequently withdrawn from circulation nearly all the specie in the colony. In consequence of this, and the remittances occasionally made of specie to Canton and other places, with which a trade is carried on by the colonists, the bank of New South Wales, though far more than solvent, has more than once been under the necessity of suspending the payment of specie on demand. It is a fact, highly creditable to the bank and to the colonists in general, that when, owing to the severe drought during the panic, which occurred in 1826, and which continued for three years with little intermission, there were bills to the amount of 18,000*l.* over-due to the bank, while the whole capital did not, at that time, exceed 22,000*l.* The confidence of the public was so great, that, by prudent management, not a sixpence of the over-due bills was lost, and the bank continued to pay a dividend all the time of from fifteen to twenty per cent. The reliance of the colonists on the stability and integrity of the establishment was so entire, that instead of any run being occasioned on the bank, the inhabitants, on the contrary, with one accord, poured into its coffers all the specie they could collect, and, by refraining from demanding it as much as possible, soon enabled the directors to resume cash payments. The bank issues notes from 1*l.* to 20*l.* and upwards. The capital at present paid up is about 125,000*l.*

In 1836, a second bank was established at Sydney, termed the *Bank of Australia*, with a capital of 220,000*l.* The *Bank of New South Wales* was established, and largely supported by the emancipists; and the *Bank of Australia* by those colonists who arrived free in the country, and who acquired the title of exclusionists. For some years this new institution was highly prosperous, and it seemed to be a powerful rival to the other establishment. The yearly dividend varied from twelve to fifteen and twenty per cent.; but, in the disastrous period of 1842–3, the *Bank of Australia* became deeply involved, and largely indebted to the metropolitan *Bank of Australasia*: it has, consequently, become necessary, together with the *Sydney Bank*, to wind up affairs.

In May, 1835, a London Company was incorporated by Royal Charter, and called the *Bank of Australasia*, with a large capital, for the purpose of establishing banks of issue and deposit in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and other settlements in Australasia. One-half of the Company's then capital (200,000*l.*) was required to be paid up before the commencement of business, and the entire capital within two years. The stock was divided into 5000 shares of 40*l.* each (500 of which were reserved for allotment in the colonies), to be paid up as follows:—10*l.* per share at the time of subscribing; 7*l.* at three months from that date; 6*l.* at six months; 3*l.* at nine months; 4*l.* at twelve months; 5*l.* at fifteen months; and 5*l.* at

eighteen months. The management of the Company's affairs is vested in the London Board of Directors, appointed by the proprietors; and the banks in the colonies are conducted by local directors, and other persons duly qualified, appointed by the London directors. The paid-up capital of this bank is now 900,000*l*. Its manager in New South Wales unfortunately allowed the *Bank of Australia* to become largely indebted to its Sydney branch, and, for some time, no dividend has been declared. The verdict of the courts of law in England has established the validity of its claims on the *Bank of Australia*. The prosperity of the colony is reviving; and it is probable the shareholders will soon be in the periodical receipt of a fair dividend. This establishment has branches in New South Wales, Port Phillip, South Australia, and Van Diemen's Land.

The *Union Bank of Australia* was established in London in 1837, with a capital of 1,000,000*l*. The institution was at once so favourably viewed, that the whole of its shares were taken as soon as issued, without having been offered for sale by advertisement; and although the liability of each proprietor was not limited by a Royal Charter, business was commenced by a junction with the *Tamar Bank* at Launceston, Van Diemen's Land; a branch was next opened at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land; then at Sydney, New South Wales; next at Melbourne, Port Phillip: and subsequently at New Zealand, and in other parts of Australasia. The number of branches is now ten; they are managed, as are those of the *Bank of Australasia*, by an excellent Board of Directors in London, with Boards of local directors in the colonies.

This institution has been admirably conducted from its commencement; the dividends paid annually have ranged from six per cent. to ten; the average of the whole period has been eight per cent. The bank has now a paid-up capital of 820,000*l*, and a subscribed capital of 1,000,000*l*. Through this excellent institution, as also through the *Bank of Australasia*, money may be safely and economically transmitted from England to any part of Australia, and *vice versa*.

The *Commercial Bank* at Sydney, New South Wales, is a modern establishment. It has a capital of 73,000*l*. paid up. By prudence it withstood the recent commercial crisis, and pays a dividend of ten per cent. per annum.

An *Australian Trust Company* has been established in London by Royal Charter, with a capital of 1,000,000*l*; I believe it operates principally by making advances on land, stock, &c.; and its proceedings do not therefore appear among the banking returns; neither does the *Scottish Australian Investment Company*, whose funds are employed in advances in Australia. For the last few years the operations of such institutions must have been very difficult, but when the colonial depression passes away, the field for investment is large, lucrative, and, judiciously conducted, perfectly safe.

*Savings' Banks* are established in different parts of the colony. The deposits in them in February, 1849, were, at Sydney, by 3,606 depositors, 142,104*l*.; Windsor, 38 depositors, 2,496*l*.; Paramatta, 115 depositors, 2,287*l*.; Maitland, 89 depositors, 2500*l*.; Bathurst, 78 depositors, 3,077*l*.; Penrith, four depositors, 120*l*. The total deposits, including other sums, was 172,638*l*.

The coin in the colony, in proportion to the population, was per head in 1836, 5*l* 9*s*.; in 1837, 5*l*.; in 1838, 5*l*. 6*s*.; in 1839, 4*l*. 10*s*.; in 1840, '41, '42, 3*l*. This explains the commercial crisis of 1841-2.

The following is a general abstract of the sworn returns, rendered pursuant to the act of Council, 4th Victoria, No. 13, of the average assets and liabilities, and of the capital and profits of the undermentioned banks of the colony of New South Wales, for the quarter ending 31st March, 1849:—

| Liabilities, Assets, Capital, &c.                                | New South Wales. | Commercial.  | Australasia. | Union of Australia. | Total.    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>LIABILITIES:—</b>                                             | £.               | £.           | £.           | £.                  | £.        |
| Notes in circulation. . .                                        | 34,519           | 31,226       | 79,560       | 90,369              | 235,675   |
| Bills in circulation . . .                                       | ..               | ..           | 13,117       | 7,803               | 20,921    |
| Balances due to other banks . . . . .                            | ..               | ..           | ..           | 212                 | 212       |
| Deposits . . . . .                                               | 225,767          | 152,735      | 354,781      | 412,070             | 1,145,354 |
| Total liabilities . . .                                          | 260,286          | 183,961      | 447,459      | 510,455             | 1,402,163 |
| <b>ASSETS:—</b>                                                  |                  |              |              |                     |           |
| Coin . . . . .                                                   | 157,564          | 90,958       | 146,774      | 245,610             | 640,908   |
| Landed property . . .                                            | 12,570           | 3,600        | 15,820       | 27,018              | 59,009    |
| Notes and bills of other banks . . . . .                         | ..               | 47           | 1,376        | ..                  | 1,424     |
| Balances due from other banks . . . . .                          | 5,599            | 12,772       | ..           | 3,022               | 21,393    |
| Notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the banks | 225,793          | 152,566      | 779,240      | 467,159             | 1,624,760 |
| Total assets . . . . .                                           | 401,528          | 259,945      | 943,212      | 742,810             | 2,347,497 |
| <b>CAPITAL AND PROFITS:—</b>                                     |                  |              |              |                     |           |
| Capital paid up . . .                                            | 125,283          | 72,955       | 900,000      | 820,000             | 1,918,238 |
| Rate per annum of last dividend . . . . .                        | 8 per cent.      | 10 per cent. | Nil.         | 6 per cent.         | ..        |
| Amount of dividend . .                                           | 5,011            | 3,237        | ..           | 25,317              | 33,566    |
| Amount of reserved profits after paying dividend . . . . .       | 17,150           | 993          | 53,451       | 77,930              | 149,526   |

NOTE.—Out of reserved profits of the New South Wales Bank, a bonus of 5 per cent. was, at the same time, paid to Shareholders; and a bonus of 5s. per share, equal to 2 per cent. was also paid by the Union Bank of Australia.

The quantity of coin in the colony for twelve years is thus shown; it is to be observed that the local government deposits its treasure among the several banks, which will account for the small sum in the Colonial Treasury.

COIN in the COLONIAL TREASURY, the MILITARY CHEST, and the several BANKS, on 31st December in each Year from 1837 to 1848, inclusive.

| Year. | Colonial Treasury. | Military Chest. | Banks.  | Total.  |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
|       | £.                 | £.              | £.      | £.      |
| 1837  | 245,250            | ..              | 182,182 | 427,432 |
| 1838  | 163,000            | ..              | 357,127 | 520,127 |
| 1839  | 124,100            | ..              | 391,969 | 516,069 |
| 1840  | 38,900             | 49,151          | 309,529 | 397,581 |
| 1841  | 25,000             | 10,000          | 427,624 | 462,624 |
| 1842  | ..                 | 32,409          | 442,980 | 475,389 |
| 1843  | ..                 | 3,000           | 420,972 | 423,972 |
| 1844  | ..                 | 11,000          | 548,923 | 559,923 |
| 1845  | 20,000             | 54,315          | 780,850 | 855,166 |
| 1846  | 25,000             | 121,173         | 681,132 | 827,306 |
| 1847  | 30,600             | 30,056          | 573,529 | 634,186 |
| 1848  | 20,600             | 15,082          | 598,121 | 633,803 |

**AUCTION DUTY paid into the COLONIAL TREASURY of NEW SOUTH WALES (including the DISTRICT of PORT PHILLIP) from the Year 1834 to 1848, inclusive.**

|  | Year. | Amount of<br>Duty. | Amount of<br>Sales. |
|--|-------|--------------------|---------------------|
|  |       | £.                 | £.                  |
|  | 1834  | 2,327              | 155,156             |
|  | 1835  | 3,135              | 209,053             |
|  | 1836  | 4,697              | 313,171             |
|  | 1837  | 4,820              | 321,346             |
|  | 1838  | 6,137              | 409,166             |
|  | 1839  | 7,700              | 513,388             |
|  | 1840  | 18,701             | 1,246,742           |
|  | 1841  | 14,455             | 963,696             |
|  | 1842  | 10,291             | 686,088             |
|  | 1843  | 6,818              | 454,565             |
|  | 1844  | 4,662              | 310,831             |
|  | 1845  | 6,068              | 404,542             |
|  | 1846  | 6,217              | 414,490             |
|  | 1847  | 7,061              | 470,781             |
|  | 1848  | 4,551              | 787,800             |

NOTE.—From 1st January, 1848, the duty was reduced from 30s. to 10s. per cent., by Act of Council, 11th Victoria, No. 16, but was made chargeable on all sales effected by licensed auctioneers, by private bargain as well as by auction.

Of the whole coin, probably not 50,000*l.* is in active circulation, which, added to about 150,000*l.* bank notes in active circulation, will not give of paper and gold one pound per head annually for the circulating medium of the colony, whereas it ought at the least to be five times that amount to facilitate the transfer of property, which takes place yearly to the amount of several millions. The sales by auction alone are now (1850) more than one million sterling annually, and this description of business has largely increased, as shown in the preceding table.

The amount of British coin in New South Wales on the 31st December, 1848, was—In Colonial Treasury, 20,600*l.*; Military chest, 15,082*l.* Banks—New South Wales, 176,430*l.*; Commercial, 79,724*l.*; Australasia, 137,887*l.*; Union, 204,078*l.*; in the hands of private individuals, supposed 20,000*l.*; total, 653,803*l.* Paper currency in circulation: Banks—New South Wales, 31,716*l.*; Commercial, 25,601*l.*; Australasia, 74,292*l.*; Union, 74,194*l.*; total, 205,803*l.* This may be considered a sound state, when there is only 205,803*l.* paper note circulation against 654,803*l.* in coin. Such an amount of circulation is, however, far too small for the healthy business of the colony.

At the period of the commercial difficulties, in 1842-3, the local legislature passed a law "to give a preferable lien on wool, from season to season, and to make mortgages of sheep, cattle, and horses valid without delivery to the mortgagee." This law, as regards live stock, was based on the principle that had been adopted for more than a century in the West Indies, where slaves were made real estate, and were literally walking freeholds, subject to all the incidents of freehold property. Although, in this respect, opposed to the spirit of the British laws, the Colonial Legislative Council,

after two years' trial of the Act, finding it beneficial to the colonists, recommended its continuance; and as live stock could not carry on its backs the muniments or title deeds belonging to real property, an efficient registry of all transactions respecting them was adopted. The annexed shows the amount of mortgages since 1843. (This return does not include the Port Phillip district). In a statement of the Registrar-General, dated Sydney, 30th January, 1847, it is remarked that, in the return of the number of sheep, and amount of money advanced under the Lien Act, it would appear as if an additional sum was advanced each subsequent year upon that mentioned to have been advanced the year previous. It must, however, be borne in mind that as the Lien Act only authorises an advance to be made on the ensuing clip of wool, the liens are renewable every year, and that consequently the same sheep and money may be included in one year as that mentioned for the previous year. The same remark may also apply to the mortgages of sheep, cattle, and horses, as the mortgages are generally made redeemable a twelvemonth from the date thereof.

**NUMBER and AMOUNT of preferable LIENS on WOOL, and of MORTGAGES on LIVE STOCK, registered at SYDNEY.**

| Liens and Mortgages.             | 1843.   | 1844.   | 1845.   | 1846.   | 1847.     | 1848.     |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>preferable liens on wool:</b> |         |         |         |         |           |           |
| Number of liens . .              | 54      | 139     | 125     | 149     | 199       | 240       |
| Number of sheep . .              | 318,739 | 837,997 | 657,989 | 813,951 | 1,095,402 | 1,378,180 |
|                                  | £.      | £.      | £.      | £.      | £.        | £.        |
| Amount of liens . .              | 30,664  | 57,733  | 55,865  | 71,351  | 107,447   | 108,892   |
| <b>mortgages on live stock:</b>  |         |         |         |         |           |           |
| Number of mortgages              | 96      | 226     | 152     | 146     | 168       | 205       |
| Number of sheep . .              | 397,995 | 694,381 | 464,713 | 491,518 | 623,257   | 1,118,762 |
| Number of cattle . .             | 44,430  | 81,679  | 49,131  | 42,870  | 45,578    | 84,411    |
| Number of horses . .             | 903     | 2,158   | 1,568   | 1,070   | 1,110     | 2,056     |
|                                  | £.      | £.      | £.      | £.      | £.        | £.        |
| Amount lent . . .                | 178,567 | 241,727 | 132,855 | 150,733 | 137,856   | 219,756   |

In the return of the amount secured by mortgages of real estate, however, the repayment of the amount is upon an average required to be made every three or four years, consequently in the return under this head the same money may have been relent and resecured thrice within ten years.

There are no Usury laws in New South Wales. The Legislative Council recently proposed to reduce the legal rate of interest to not more than eight per cent.; but Her Majesty's Government rejected the proposition. It is not possible to state accurately, therefore, at what rates money is lent on wool and live stock, nor on mortgages of land; but the range is about eight to ten, or even twelve, per cent.



RETURN of the NUMBER and AMOUNT of MORTGAGES on LAND in the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES, registered at SYDNEY, from the Year 1837 to 1846, inclusive.

| Year. | Lent on Town Lands. |         | Lent on Country Lands. |         | Lent on Town and Country Lands. |         | Total.            |           |
|-------|---------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
|       | No. of Mortgages.   | Amount. | No. of Mortgages.      | Amount. | No. of Mortgages.               | Amount. | No. of Mortgages. | Amount.   |
|       |                     | £.      |                        | £.      |                                 | £.      |                   | £.        |
| 1837  | 145                 | 108,860 | 130                    | 102,817 | 11                              | 19,336  | 286               | 231,013   |
| 1838  | 139                 | 59,702  | 207                    | 174,388 | 10                              | 14,801  | 356               | 248,891   |
| 1839  | 159                 | 112,835 | 213                    | 189,447 | 11                              | 46,534  | 383               | 348,816   |
| 1840  | 155                 | 112,158 | 281                    | 355,224 | 23                              | 47,358  | 459               | 514,740   |
| 1841  | 241                 | 266,944 | 417                    | 643,111 | 51                              | 188,685 | 709               | 1,098,740 |
| 1842  | 238                 | 282,659 | 333                    | 384,566 | 54                              | 157,186 | 625               | 824,411   |
| 1843  | 246                 | 275,386 | 285                    | 333,487 | 51                              | 446,707 | 582               | 1,055,580 |
| 1844  | 192                 | 94,400  | 252                    | 144,352 | 50                              | 61,065  | 494               | 299,817   |
| 1845  | 135                 | 111,659 | 152                    | 107,585 | 31                              | 53,577  | 318               | 272,821   |
| 1846  | 146                 | 64,856  | 148                    | 86,726  | 14                              | 18,792  | 308               | 170,374   |
| 1847  | 156                 | 81,516  | 149                    | 82,605  | 15                              | 16,432  | 320               | 180,553   |
| 1848  | 196                 | 110,501 | 103                    | 70,572  | 8                               | 21,572  | 307               | 202,644   |

The colonists are not, certainly, largely in debt, either to capitalists or to the bank; and there appears fair grounds for assuming that their mercantile affairs are now in a sound and prosperous state.

**BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS.**—South Australia has its own public bank, which is coeval with the foundation of the colony; there is also a branch of the *Austral-Asian*, and, recently, one of the *Union Bank of Australia*, has been placed at Adelaide. The *South Australian Bank* appears to be a well-conducted chartered Company; it has a subscribed capital of 200,000*l.*, in shares of 25*l.* each; upwards of 180,000*l.* have been paid up. By the charter, there is a power of augmenting the capital of 500,000*l.* The corporation is managed by a Court of Directors in London, and there is a local Board of three directors at Adelaide, aided by a manager. The net profits of the bank at Adelaide and in London, for the year 1849-50, was 15,153*l.*; the dividend paid to the proprietors for the year, was six per cent. free of income-tax.

The bank averages for South Australia are thus stated since 1843:—

#### LIABILITIES.

| Year. | Notes in Circulation. | Bills in Circulation. | Deposits. | Balance due to other Banks. | Total.  |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|
|       | £.                    | £.                    | £.        | £.                          | £.      |
| 1843  | 9,939                 | 3,314                 | 51,897    | 793                         | 65,944  |
| 1844  | 11,027                | 1,890                 | 55,348    | 787                         | 69,054  |
| 1845  | 14,912                | 3,714                 | 66,513    | 340                         | 85,480  |
| 1846  | 23,224                | 5,008                 | 91,848    | 1,451                       | 121,532 |
| 1847  | 32,008                | 4,793                 | 102,636   | 1,739                       | 141,178 |
| 1848  | 40,937                | 5,826                 | 118,563   | 241                         | 165,568 |
| 1849  | ..                    | ..                    | ..        | ..                          | ..      |
| 1850  | ..                    | ..                    | ..        | ..                          | ..      |

## ASSETS.

| Year. | Coin.   | Landed Property. | Balances due from other Banks. | Notes and Bills Discounted, and all Debts due to the Banks. | Total.  |
|-------|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|       | £.      | £.               | £.                             | £.                                                          | £.      |
| 1843  | 27,881  | 8,139            | 2,944                          | 186,067                                                     | 225,032 |
| 1844  | 32,492  | 7,867            | 3,055                          | 181,121                                                     | 224,537 |
| 1845  | 30,314  | 7,590            | 3,495                          | 174,971                                                     | 216,376 |
| 1846  | 69,238  | 7,226            | 2,707                          | 196,480                                                     | 275,652 |
| 1847  | 101,868 | 7,382            | 9,280                          | 309,097                                                     | 409,646 |
| 1848  | 88,620  | 10,440           | 7,194                          | 367,765                                                     | 474,021 |
| 1849  | ..      | ..               | ..                             | ..                                                          | ..      |
| 1850  | ..      | ..               | ..                             | ..                                                          | ..      |

*The Coins* in circulation are the gold, silver, and copper coins of Great Britain, which bear the same current value as in the United Kingdom.

On 31st December, 1848, the coin in the colony was estimated at 125,247*l.*, viz., in the Bank of South Australia, 57,573*l.*; Bank of Austral-Asia, 25,674*l.*; in Treasury chest, 32,000*l.*; in circulation, 10,000*l.* The weekly average amount of bank-notes in circulation is 48,371*l.*

*The course of exchange on London* from 1st January to 23rd October, 1848, was two per cent. premium; from 23rd October to 31st December, 1848, four per cent. *On the Colonies*, 1st January to 23rd June, two per cent. premium; from 23rd June to 31st December, one per cent., by the Bank of Austral-Asia; and by the Bank of South Australia, for same period, three to two per cent. premium.

*Weights and Measures* as in England.

There is a well-managed *Savings' Bank* at Adelaide, which possesses the confidence of the public.

## CHAPTER XX.

## CONCLUSION.

A REVIEW of the evidence and proposed arrangements, contained in the preceding chapters renders it apparent that, though enough may have been said for the present to arouse attention, to excite action, and to regulate preliminary operations, yet it must also be evident that in dealing with a matter so broad, within limits so narrow, as these of this little book, much must have been left unmentioned that would be useful to elucidate statements, to remove doubts, and to strengthen convictions.

Situated almost in the centre of that geographical division of the earth which has received the special designation of Polynesia, and in the midst of those populous islands abounding with natural wealth, which have thus far continued to suffer under the monopolizing power of ignorance, its degradation, tyranny, and injustice, the province of Albert may be expected to become a centre of civilized industry, freedom, and truth, whose influence may penetrate the excessive populations of the continental shores of Eastern Asia, and the innumerable people and islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

In the words of Sir Stamford Raffles, "Our field is India beyond the Ganges, including the Malayan Archipelago, Australia, China, Japan, and the islands in the Pacific Ocean, by far the most populous half of the world. All our arrangements should have in view the eventual establishment of one united and respectable government to the Eastward." "It is perfectly clear that in the proportion that we extend our influence the cause of humanity is promoted." It is said of that excellent governor, "The object of his government was to promote a spirit of enterprise among them as individuals, to give the utmost freedom to cultivation, to extend the commerce of the country, and to advance the happiness of the people in general.

Let these views be regarded with all sobriety, but not without the energy, knowledge, and capacity equal to the task, and no fear is entertained of the result.

A fine surveyed port, many navigable rivers with abundance of water at the end of the dry season, fertile soil of great extent, remarkably good climate, a central position for trade, no lack of labour, proximity to existing postal routes, by which communication with England can be effected quicker than from either of the existing Australian settlements,—these are some of the inducements offered in Port Flinders to men who are willing to meet nature in the rough, and cultivate her attractions, that they may enjoy her first and most bountiful favours, and have the happiness of feeling that they have contributed to "replenish the earth and fulfil it," according to the command of the Almighty.

## FINANCES.

Sir Stamford Raffles' experience in the settlement of Singapore, may serve to elucidate some practical points in the establishment of the new colony.

He says "The whole of the establishments at Singapore, civil, military, and political, do not exceed 5000 dollars (1200*l.*) per month." In another place he remarks, "The occupation of Singapore involves an expense of 20,000*l.* per annum, which sum covers all the expense of the establishment, and if permanently retained, the amount will of course be paid out of the local revenue.

Now it is obvious that many causes of expense existed in connexion with Singapore, which would not arise in the new colony. The great difficulties which Sir Stamford had to encounter single-handed, in getting the consent of Government to occupy Singapore, and in contending against the jealousy of the Dutch, probably prevented him from making those provisions by which expenses may be sufficiently anticipated and checked. Besides, under the Indian Administration, official expectations are not lightly satisfied. Less than one-half of the actual outlay at Singapore will probably accomplish all that is desirable at Port Flinders.

The rapidity with which a well-chosen settlement on the eastern seas may be expected to become occupied, may also be deduced from Sir Stamford's experience. He says "My new colony thrives most rapidly. We have not been established four months, and it has received an accession of population exceeding five thousand, principally Chinese, and this number is daily increasing. You may easily conceive with what zeal I apply myself to the clearing of forests, cutting of roads, building of towns, framing of laws, &c., &c. . . . When we got possession of it, there were only 500 inhabitants. . . . You will be surprised to hear the value of land here ; a few spots of ground hitherto considered of no value, and passed over by our local resident, sold in the course of an hour for upwards of 50,000 dollars." In 1822 Sir Stamford wrote to Mr. Marsden as follows :—

"At Singapore the capital turned in a year exceeds

eight millions, (8,000,000) dollars, without any Government bills or civil establishment whatever." "By colonization, by European talents, and Chinese labour alone the resources of the country can be brought forward."

The wisdom of Sir Stamford's proceedings, and of these remarks, has been fully substantiated by the pre-eminent success of Singapore. They are now applicable to Port Flinders, in, perhaps, even a greater degree. For let what has been already observed be borne in mind, with reference to the relative position of our new port, with the adjacent islands and countries, with the interior of Australia, and with its southern ports, and no doubt can be entertained of the result. Let it also be remembered that the thirst for gold has attracted a European population to the southern colonies, the great mass of which has become heartily sickened of a real taste of the golden streams. But the land is already pre-occupied, and the price and conditions of sale so objectionable, that persons have been driven to leave the Australian colonies and buy land in the United States, after going to the expense and trouble entailed by a loyal preference for our own colonies.

There is every probability that a large migration will take place from the southern colonies to the new settlement; so that no effort to promote emigration direct from the mother country is thought necessary. See Chap. IV.; pages 13, 14. A Government establishment, for the survey and sale of lands, for the regulation of forced labourers, for the opening of the port, and equal to the exertions and emergencies arising in the formation and guidance of a new society, is all that is required to start the colony.

#### MINERALS.

Too little has been mentioned concerning the mineral resources of the new colony. Flinders says of the new port—"The stone most commonly seen on the shores is an iron ore, in some places so strongly impregnated, that I conceive it would be a great acquisition to a colony fixed in the neighbourhood."

"The stone on the north side of Melville Bay is a granitic composition of quartz, micas, and coarse garnets; the garnets are large, and give the stone a plum-pudding

appearance, and when polished it would be very beautiful ; over the granite is a crust of calcareous rock."

On the south side of the bay the stone is argillaceous, but frequently mixed with ferruginous grains ; and on the south-east side the rocks are of iron ore, of which a small piece drew the needle of my theodolite  $8^{\circ}$  from the meridian.

"At Mallison's Island," he says, "a first view of the cliffs led me to think they contained coals ; but this appearance arose from the colour of the slate, of which the lower parts are composed. The top of the island is of sandstone."

"It seems probable that iron runs through the space of country comprehended between the three bays, (Caledon, Melville, and Arnheim Bays), although the exterior shores and the hills be either granitic, argillaceous, or of sandstone." Near the same island he says "I took the bearings from a small islet or bank of iron ore, lying near it, (the main land)."—Page 243.

Flinders had a Cornish miner with him in this expedition, and many remarks occur in his great work relating to the useful application of the mineral resources which he observed.

#### ANIMALS.

In regard to animal life, the following quotation from the Captain Stokes' Game book conveys some idea :—

"Booby Island (June and August), 145 quails, 18 pigeons, 12 rails of two kinds, 3 doves ; Van Diemen's Inlet (July), 14 doves, 6 pigeons, 1 native companion ; Bountiful Island (July), 8 quails, 11 doves, 1 pheasant, 3 plovers, 4 white cockatoos ; Sweers' Island (July), 151 quails, 87 doves, 20 pigeons, 3 pheasants, 8 white and 2 black cockatoos, 5 spur-wing plovers ; Disaster Inlet (July), 36 ducks, 9 white cockatoos, 2 native companions, 1 green ibis ; on the coast (July), 10 curlews and plovers ; Flinders' River (July), 10 ducks, 5 rose-coloured cockatoos, 4 pigeons, 3 spur-wing plovers, 1 rail of a new species, 1 white ibis, 1 spoonbill ; Albert River (August), 20 ducks, 4 large water rails, 2 pheasants ; between Van Diemens' Inlet and Flinders' River (August),

12 cockatoos, 1 kangaroo; Wallis Islands (August), 6 quails, 6 doves, 1 pigeon."

Leichhardt also mentions the game which he met with along his route. Emus and kangaroos and a variety of other animals helped to supply his party for 3000 miles.

In speaking of turtle at Bountiful Island, Flinders says—"Two boats went to bring off the officer and people with what had been caught; but their success had been so great, that it was necessary to hoist out the launch, and it took nearly the whole day to get on board what the decks and holds could contain, without impediment to the working of the ship."

### VEGETATION.

The vegetation around the gulf is fully described by Leichhardt. He says, "The whole country round the gulf was well grassed, particularly before we crossed the Nicholson; and on the plains and approaches to the rivers and creeks. . . . Cattle driven over the country we have passed, by short stages, and during the proper season, would even fatten on the road." Palms, bamboos, gum-trees, nutmegs, and various useful trees and shrubs are plentiful.

### EXPLORATION.

The further exploration of the interior is particularly associated with the Albert River by its discoverer, Captain Stokes. His extensive experience as a scientific explorer in Australia, qualifies him better than any man to give an opinion on plans for that purpose. He says "In the whole continent there exists no point of departure to be compared with the head of the Albert. The expedition should, as I have before remarked, go to Investigator Road, fulfilling my prediction of the ultimate importance of that port."

The first efforts should be directed to the opening of a route to Mitchell's Victoria River, which would probably result in the establishment of an overland postal route, in conjunction with the Peninsular and Oriental mail packets. This line would constitute the shortest, healthiest, safest, and richest line of communication between England and Australia, and greatly facilitate the traffic between Asia and Australia.

BOOKS, MAPS, AND CHARTS RELATING TO THE GULF OF  
CARPENTARIA, AND THE ASIATIC MEDITERRANEAN.

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**FLINDERS.**—A Voyage to Terra Australis ; undertaken for the purpose of completing the discovery of that vast country, and prosecuted in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, in H. M. Sloop Investigator. By Mathew Flinders, Com. R. N., 2 vols., large 4to., with an Atlas. 1814.

**KING.**—Voyages to New Holland in 1817 to 1822. By Captain P. P. King, R. N.

**STOKES.**—Discoveries in Australia ; with an account of the Coasts and Rivers explored and surveyed during the voyage of H. M. S. Beagle, in the years 1837 to 1843. By J. Lort Stokes, Com. R. N. 2 vols. 8vo. with maps and plates. 1846.

**LEICHHARDT.**—Journal of an Expedition in Australia, from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, a distance of upwards of 3000 miles, during 1844-45. By Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt, 8vo., plates and maps. 1847.

**STURT.**—Expedition into Central Australia, in 1844-46. 2 vols.

**MITCHELL.**—Journal of an Expedition into the interior of Tropical Australia in search of a route from Sydney to the Gulf of Carpentaria. By Lieut. Col. Sir T. L. Mitchell, Kt. D. C. L., Surveyor-General of New South Wales. 8vo., 1848.

**JUKES.**—Narrative of the Surveying Voyage of H. M. S. Fly, commanded by Captain F. P. Blackwood, R. N., in Torres Strait, New Guinea, and other islands of the Eastern Archipelago, during 1842-1846. By J. Beete Jukes, M.A., F. G. S., Naturalist to the Expedition. 2 vols. 1847.

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**SIDNEY.**—The Three Colonies of Australia. By Samuel Sidney, Esq. 1853.

**RAFFLES.**—Memoir of the Life and public services of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, F.R.S. &c., particularly in the Government of Java, 1811-16, and of Bencoolen and its dependencies, 1817-24 ; with details of the commerce and resources of the Eastern Archipelago, and selections from his correspondence. By his Widow. 4to., 1830.



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ST. JOHN.—The Indian Archipelago, its history and present state. 2 vols. 1853.

EARL, G. W.—Voyages in the Indian Archipelago, 1832-34.

PALMER.—Reports to the Congress of the United States, on the Asiatic Islands of the North Pacific, &c., and on the Indian Archipelago. 1848.

HORSBUGH's Directory of the Indian Ocean, 4to.

FINDLAY's Directory of the Pacific Ocean, 2 vols. 8vo.

### CHARTS.

ADMIRALTY CHARTS.—Chart of Terra Australis, by M. Flinders, Com. of H. M. Sloop Investigator, 1802-3. North Coast, sheet 2. Corrected by Com. Stokes, 1841. Containing Gulf of Carpentaria.

—————Carpentaria Gulf.—South part. Surveyed by Captain John Lort Stokes, R. N. 1841. With the Soundings of (Port Flinders) Investigator Road.

—————The Albert River.—Surveyed by Com. J. H. Stokes, R. N. 1841. With Soundings.

—————China Seas, and various parts of the Eastern Archipelago, &c. See "Admiralty Catalogue of Charts."

LAURIE'S LARGE CHART OF THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS.—12 sheets.

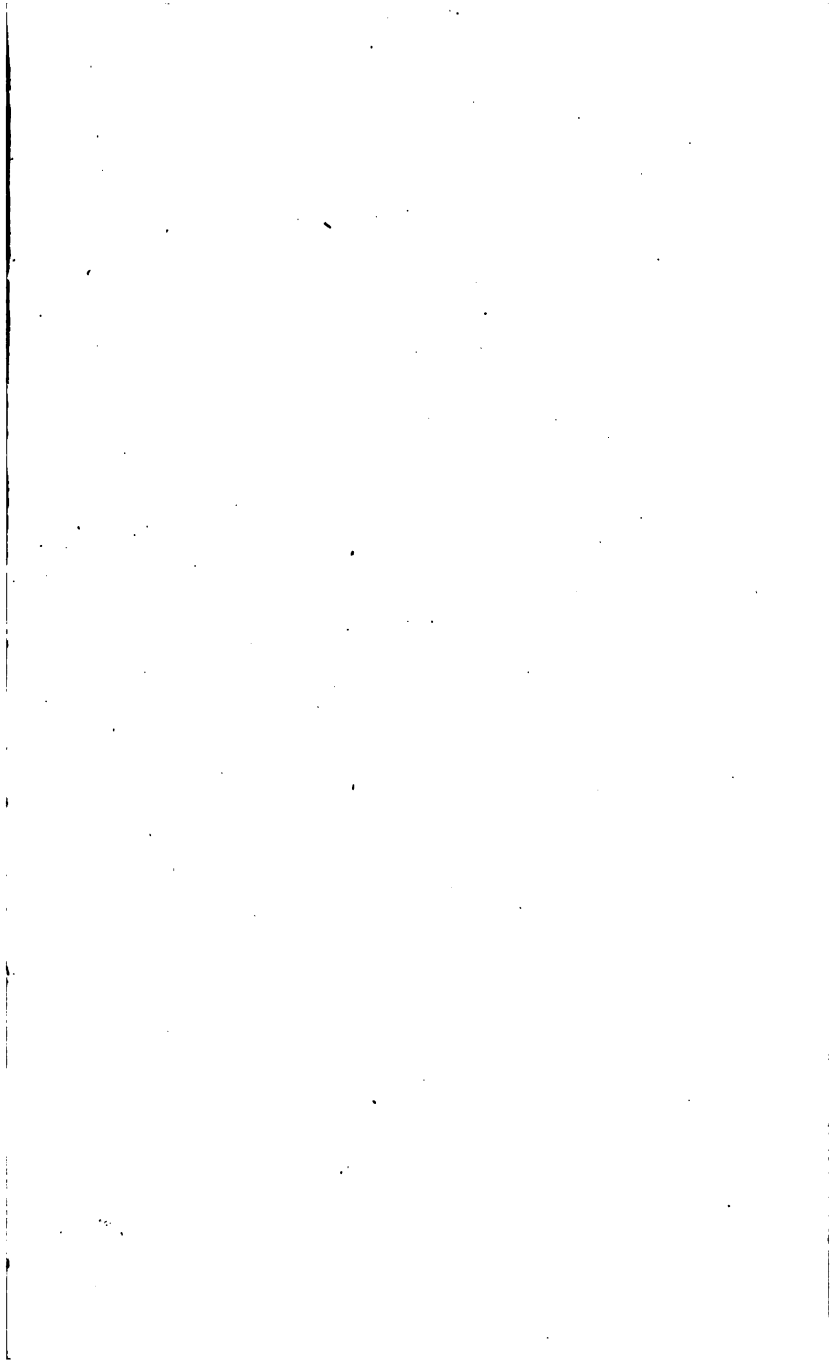
WALKER'S CHART OF EASTERN COAST OF ASIA, the Archipelago, Australia, and New Zealand.

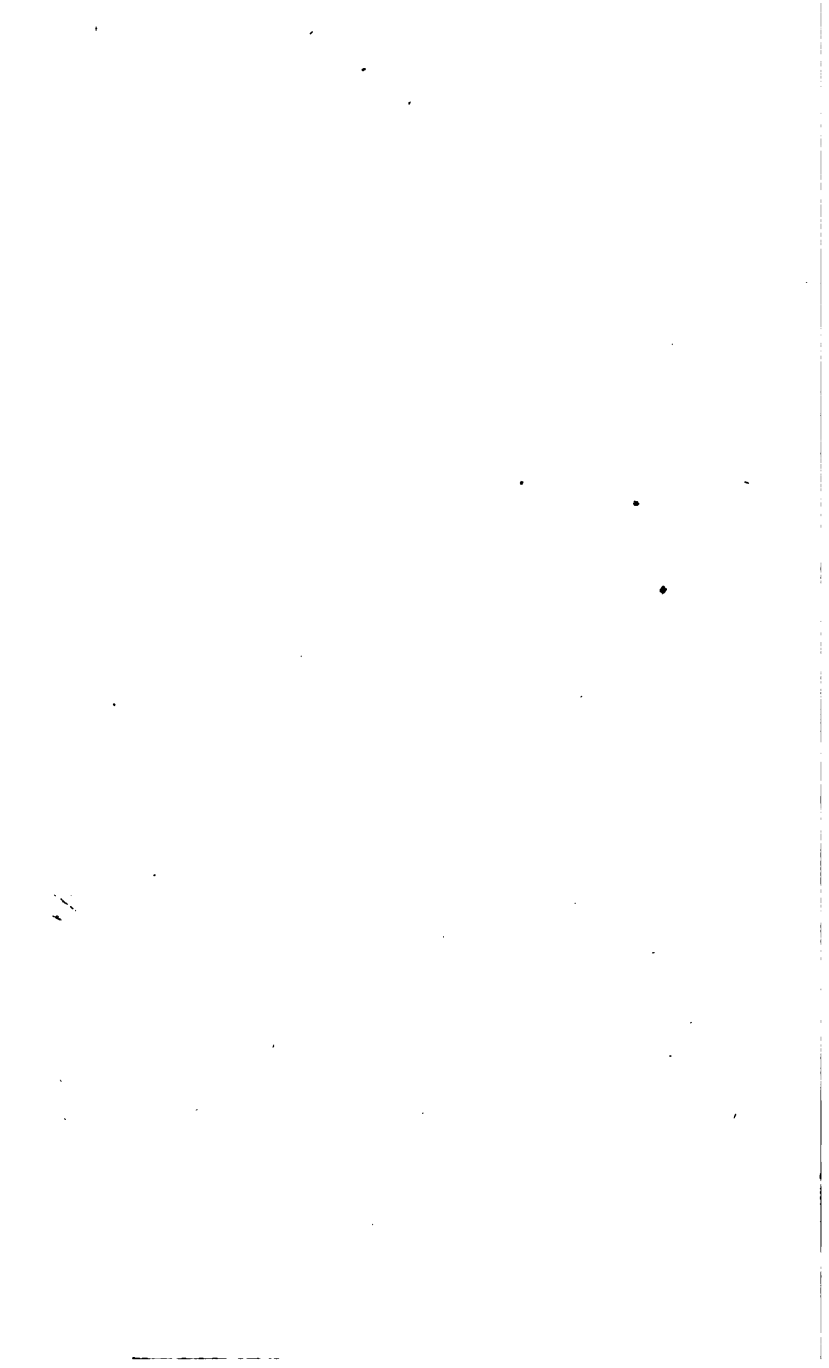
### MAPS.

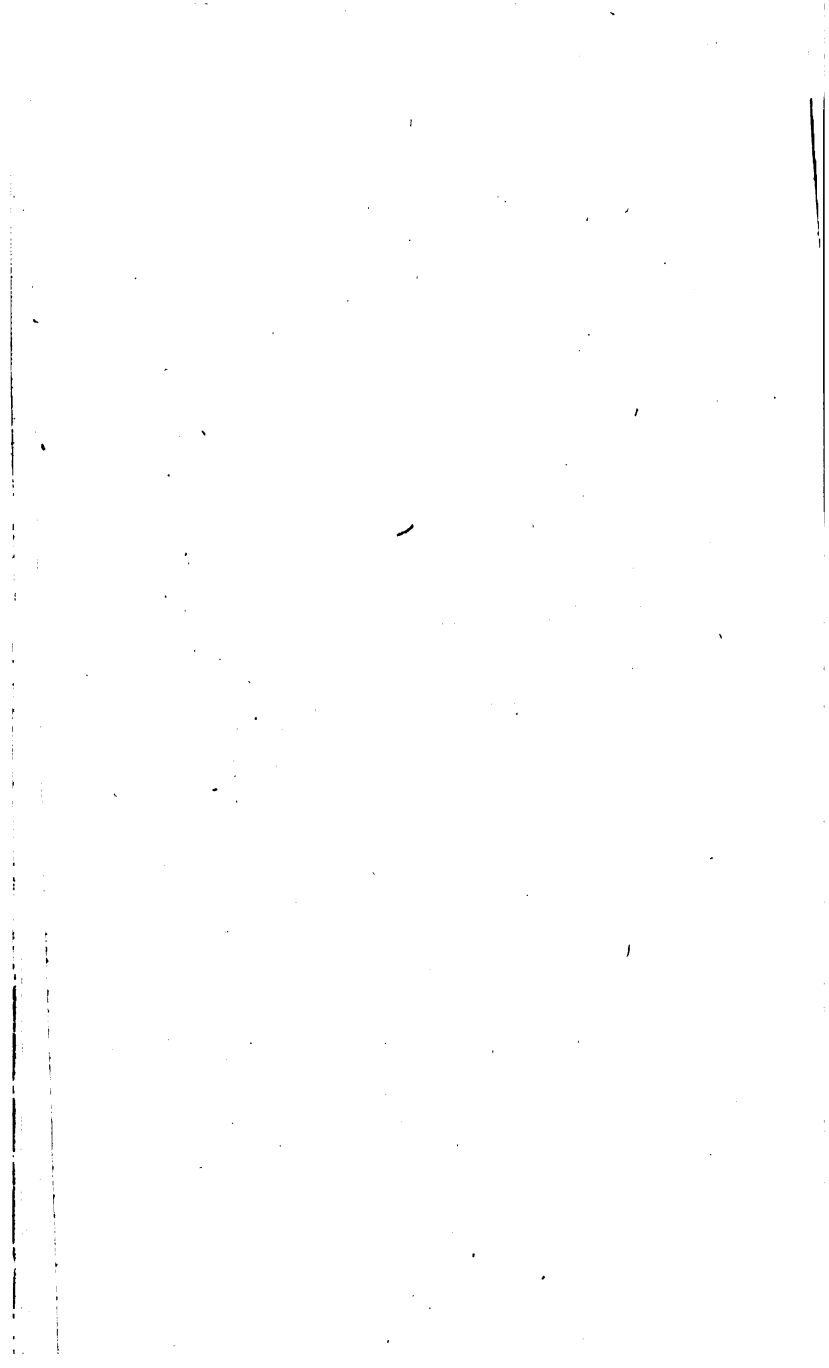
ARROWSMITH'S GENERAL MAP OF AUSTRALIA.—Scale 80 miles to an inch. 2 Sheets.

ARROWSMITH.—Map of the Eastern Provinces of Australia, constructed from official and other original documents, adjusted to the maritime surveys of Flinders, King, Wickham, Stokes, Blackwood, Stanley, &c., 1853. Scale 25 miles to an inch. 6 Sheets.

\* \* \* This is the most complete map of the country around the Gulf of Carpentaria.







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